

Deal 1
 West Deals
 None Vul

♠ K Q J 8 6 4 ♥ 9 2 ♦ Q 8 7 ♣ 9 4	♠ A 10 9 ♥ K Q 6 4 ♦ A 9 5 2 ♣ A 5
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N
W E
S

♠ 7 3 ♥ J 10 8 5 ♦ J 6 ♣ Q 10 8 7 3
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♠ 5 2 ♥ A 7 3 ♦ K 10 4 3 ♣ K J 6 2

17
8 4
11

<i>West</i> 2 ♠ Pass Pass	<i>North</i> Pass 3 NT	<i>East</i> Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 2 NT Pass
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3 NT by South
 Lead: ♠ K

Partner's 1 NT overcall shows 15-18 points and guarantees a ♠ stop. With 11 points and no 4-card ♥ suit you say 3 NT.

The contract would be 3 NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♠ K. Do you hold up or not?

You need just one more winner. It could come from a finesse of the ♣ J. It could come from a 3-3 ♥ split. It could come by establishing a fourth card in ♦s.

Most important for now is the ♠ lead? Do you hold up?

Yes you should hold up. In fact you might as well hold up twice since you aren't contemplating a throw-in of East. Holding up twice will protect you in the unlikely event that East made his 2 ♠ bid with a 5-card suit.

Both the ♥ possibility and the ♠ possibility will either work or not, so you can save them for later. Your highest percentage chance is the fourth ♦, but here you must be careful. You must try to establish the ♦s without allowing East to get the lead. It is actually pretty easy. Just play a small ♦ from your hand and when East plays low insert the ♦ T. West wins the ♦ J but cannot harm you with his return.

When the remaining ♦s fall you have established your ninth trick.

If he does that he hands you all four ♦ tricks!

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q 5
♥ K 10 4
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ J 7 4

10 7
15 8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3 ♠ by South
Lead: ♦ J

♠ J 9 8 6 4 3 ♥ 7 5 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ A Q	♠ 7 ♥ Q J 9 6 3 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ K 10 5 3
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W	N	E	S
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♠ A 10 2
♥ A 8
♦ A K 7 3
♣ 9 8 6 2

Partner's 2 ♥ bid is a transfer; you respond 2 ♠.
Partner now bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

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Partner tells you that he has only invitational strength, but has at least 6 ♠s. The ♠s are fine by you, but with only 15 HCP you decide to pass.

UhOh. Maybe you should have bid game.

If the ♠s are 2-2 there will be only one loser in that suit. And maybe the ♣ finesse will work.

Don't get too optimistic too early. If you play ♠ A and another ♠ you could go down. Remember that you only counted one ♥ loser - that means you MUST ruff a ♥ in your hand.

Win the ♦ lead and play ♥ A and another ♥ before you touch trumps.

After this there is nothing the defense can do to stop you ruffing one ♥ in your hand.

to see why this was necessary.

West would have taken the second ♠, then pulled your last ♠. When the ♣ finesse failed you would make only 8 tricks.

Deal 3	♠ A 10 ♥ K 7 4 3 ♦ A 6 5 4 ♣ A Q 5		
South Deals	♠ 7 4 ♥ A 10 9 8 ♦ Q J 10 8 ♣ J 8 3		
None Vul	W N E S 17 8 4 11 ♠ K Q 8 6 3 ♥ 6 2 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ K 6 2		
	♠ J 9 5 2 ♥ Q J 5 ♦ 9 2 ♣ 10 9 7 4		
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	2 ♠
Pass			Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♦ Q			

the ♥ A being with West. Need it be said that ♥s is the suit you are worried about and West is the Danger hand? Let's say you win the first trick with dummy's ♦ K.

Suppose you play ♠ A, then ♠ K Q. If they split 3-3 you will be soooo happy because you will make at least T tricks. But if West shows out on the third ♠ you will be pretty happy because you can give up a ♠ to East and still make at least 9 tricks. But if East shows out on the third ♠ you could be in deep trouble. You would have to give West the lead to establish an extra ♠ winner, and he might very well lead through your ♥ K.

There is a great safety play to protect against a 4-2 ♠ split. Play a low ♠ from dummy and finesse the ♠ T. East may win with a doubleton ♠ J but you will still make the contract.

to see what really happens.

But visualize the ♠ J and ♠ 7 transposed. If you don't make the safety play it is true that the ♠ J will fall. BUT, West will still take the fourth ♠ and when he gets in he will return the ♥ Q.

With 12 points and a 5-card Major you transfer partner to that Major. You bid 2 ♥. Partner bids 2 ♠. Now what do say next?

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You must insist on game, but since partner could have a doubleton ♠ you do so by bidding 3 NT to give him the choice.

He chooses 3 NT by passing.

The contract would be 3 NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♦ Q. Do you win the first trick or holdup?

A holdup wouldn't hurt you since East would retain the lead. But it probably wouldn't help you much either since you do have 2 stoppers in the suit. You obviously need to establish at least one more winner in ♠s so you won't have to depend on

Deal 4
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ A 6 2 ♥ K J 8 5 2 ♦ 9 8 ♣ 10 7 3 8 8 7 17	♠ Q 10 9 8 4 ♥ A 4 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 8 6 5 ♠ K J ♥ 10 9 7 3 ♦ A K 5 3 ♣ A Q 4	♠ 7 5 3 ♥ Q 6 ♦ J 10 6 4 ♣ K J 9 2
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West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 5			

West has a 5-card suit, which means that East has 2 ♥s. West's suit is definitely NOT ♥ K Q J 5 2; he would have started with the ♥ K, not the ♥ 5. So you can be sure that East holds either ♥ K x, ♥ Q x or ♥ J x. So what?

So you should play the ♥ A immediately. If East puts on his small ♥ then his lone honor will block the suit the next time it is played. But if he unblocks the honor under dummy's ♥ A then your ♥ T 9 7 will be promoted into a second stopper.

Play the ♥ A on the first trick and East is hog-tied. If he plays low the suit blocks, if he sacrifices his ♥ Q then your ♥ T 9 7 prevents West from running the suit.

Partner's 2 ♥ is a transfer, so you bid 2 ♠. Partner now bids 2 NT. What do you say?

Partner's 2 ♥ is a transfer, so you bid 2 ♠. Partner now bids 2 NT. What do you say?

Partner is only inviting, so he must have either 9 or 10 points. And since he chose 2 NT as the invitation he must have only 5 ♠s. You will accept the invitation since you have a maximum 1 NT opener, and you choose 3 NT since you know there is no 8-card ♠ fit.

When West leads the ♥ 5 you have an immediate decision to make.

It is pretty clear that the 4 additional winners you need will be ♠s. The danger is that when you force out the ♠A the defenders might be able to cash 4 ♥s right away. So the immediate decision is whether you take the ♥ A on the first trick or wait until the second.

If West has only 4 ♥s it will make no difference what you do because they will only win 3 ♥ tricks and you will make your contract. So assume that

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Deal 5South Deals
None Vul

♠ 5	♦ K Q J 6 5 2	♣ 9 4 3	♠ A 10 7 3	♦ 9 7	♣ K Q J 7
16			♠ Q J 4 2	♦ 8 3	
10 3			♦ 9 8 3		
11			♣ 10 8 6 5		
			♠ K 9 8 6		
			♦ A 10 4		
			♦ 10 7 5 2		
			♣ A 2		



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
2 ♥	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	ALL	Pass
4 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♥ K			

You need to find out if partner has 4 ♠s. Using lebensohl the way to do that is to first bid 2 NT. Partner bids 2 ♣, the relay bid. What do say next?

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Now you cue-bid 3 ♥. An immediate cue-bid would have been Stayman, (for the other Major), but the cue-bid following the lebensohl 2 NT also promises a stopper in the enemy suit. In any case, partner replies 3 ♠. Next?

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You bid 4 ♠.

The contract would be 4 ♠ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 4 ♠. East leads the ♥ K. Do you take the first trick or not?

You should not hold up on the ♥ for two reasons. First, West might have a singleton. Second, you might not have a ♥ loser at all (if you can discard both of dummy's ♥ losers on your ♣s).

So win the ♥ A and start on trumps by playing ♠ A, then ♠ K. Uh Oh. West discards a ♥ on the second ♠ so you have two ♠ losers.

Now you will have to be lucky. Leave the two master trumps undrawn and start running the ♣s. Fortunately West has 4 ♣s and you are able to discard both of dummy's ♥ losers. Play a ♦ next and your luck continues when it is East who takes the trick. Since West can't get in to pull your trumps, you cannot be defeated. You play your ♦ winners and ruff a ♥ in dummy. West will get his two trumps at the end.

West would have taken the two trump tricks, then East would have taken 5 ♥ tricks and the ♦ A.