

**Deal 1**  
North Deals  
None Vul

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

13  
8 5  
14

West      North      East      South  
Pass      1 ♦      Pass      1 ♥  
Pass      2 ♣      Pass      3 NT  
3 NT by South  
Lead: ♠ 4

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

♠ J 9 7  
♥ Q 10 9 6  
♦ J 9  
♣ J 10 6 2



♠ A K 5 2  
♥ A K 4 3  
♦ 7 5 3  
♣ 9 5

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 4.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need two more winners. They cannot possibly come from ♠s, ♥s, or ♣s since one defender must hold at least 4 cards in each of those suits. So your two extra winners must come from the ♦ suit.

There is no reason to hold up on the ♠ since the ♥ and ♣ suits also have just two stoppers. You win the ♠ A.

Your best play next is to finesse the ♦ T. This may gain a trick by virtue of the finesse if West happens to hold the ♦ J, but primarily you are working to establish the ♦ suit. Assume East wins the ♦ J and returns a ♠.

Again don't hold up. Take the ♠ K and lead another small ♦, finessing with dummy's ♦ Q. Happily this time the finesse works, and even more happily both defenders follow suit. That means the rest of the ♦s are good and you make an overtrick.

If looked different because of the two finesses you took.

**Deal 2**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10 6 4 2	♦ 8 6 5 2	♣ A 8 6 5 3
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♥ K J 8		
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♦ 10 7 3		
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♣ K 2		
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8	4	9
19		



♠ 9 7	♦ Q 10 9 6	♣ A 8 5
♥ 4 3	♦ Q J 9	
		♦ 10 7 4

♠ K Q 3		
♥ A 7 5 2		
♦ A K 4		
♣ Q J 9		

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♣

Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 NT
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Pass	Pass	Pass	
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3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 4

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 4. East puts on the ♠ A and returns the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 6

Needing three more winners you are going to have to establish the ♣ suit. You are also going to have to be lucky!

You win the second ♠ and play your ♣ Q. West covers with the ♣ K. What do you do next?

You DUCK. If you take the ♣ A now you will never get back to dummy to enjoy those other ♣s. So let West have the ♣ K. You win his return, (probably a ♠), and play ♣ J, then ♣ 9 to dummy's ♣ A. As long as ♣s split 3-2 you will get the three winners you need.

West's play of the ♣ K may have made you want to jump up with the ♣ A, but you must stick to the original play of ducking one trick.

**Deal 3**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

6	♠ A Q 3
10 5	♥ 6 3
19	♦ A K 5 4
	♣ A Q 6 5

W	N
S	E
♠ J 9 6	♦ J 9 2
♦ Q J 10	♣ 10 9 3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ 2			

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 2. East puts on the ♠ J.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 6

You need three more winners. It is possible your fourth ♦ can be established, but that needs a 3-3 split. It's also possible that the ♣ finesse will work, and also the ♥ finesse. Since you need the ♥ finesse anyway you should go ahead and try to establish the ♥s.

Win the first trick with your ♠ Q and play a low ♥, ducking in dummy. East will no doubt win a cheap trick but no matter. When you next gain the lead play your other low ♥ and finesse the ♥ Q. Assume this wins (if it doesn't you will be going down for sure). Play the ♥ A and if both defenders follow your other 2 ♥s are good and your contract is made.

to see the full Deal and whether you made the contract or not.

But, it is your only chance to make the contract.

**Deal 4**

South Deals	♠ 8 6 5 3
None Vul	♥ K 5 4
	♦ K J 10 8 5
	♣ Q
♠ K Q J 10	♠ A 9 2
♥ 10 9	♥ J 7 3
♦ 7 4 3	♦ A 9 2
♣ K 10 7 2	♣ J 9 6 5



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

Some pretty aggressive bidding gets you to a challenging game. South is to play 4 ♥. West leads the ♠ K, overtaken by East's ♠ A. East returns a ♠ to West's ♠ T, and he then plays the ♠ Q.

Losers: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

With 2 tricks already gone you still have 4 losers. You could consider ruffing the 3 ♣ losers in dummy but that would just create a trump loser even when trumps are splitting 3-2. So it looks like you will have to establish the ♦ suit for discards. You could pull trumps and then play your ♦ Q, hoping the defenders will grab their ♦ A immediately. But unless they are real novices they will hold it up one round and you'll no longer be able to reach dummy.

The solution is to establish the ♦s before you use up dummy's ♥ K.

Ruff the third ♠, then play ♦ Q, (which they will duck), and another ♦, (which they will probably take). Win whatever they return, pull trumps ending in dummy, and enjoy your 3 ♦ winners.

**Deal 5**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 10 8 6

♥ 9 6 3

♦ Q 7 2

♣ J 9 2

♠ Q J 9  
 ♥ K Q 10 5 4  
 ♦ 9 4  
 ♣ 8 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

8  
 6 10  
 16

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

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 6

North's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2 NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 6, you play dummy's ♠ 9 and East contributes the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 5

The math is easy - you need 4 ♥ tricks. And you should be able to manage that by driving out the ♥ A. But the defenders will probably hold up one or two rounds when you play on ♥s, so you must have an outside entry to dummy.

The ♠ Q J will provide that entry IF you make sure to win the first trick with your ♠ A as an unblocking move. If you don't do so then West will be able to keep you out of the dummy and away from those good ♥s.

But if you win the first trick with the ♠ A, then dummy's ♠ Q J will provide a guaranteed entry to the good ♥s.

**Deal 6**West Deals  
None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 2  
 ♥ K 6 4  
 ♦ 10 8 2  
 ♣ Q 6 3

7  
 7 8  
**18**

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 6 3  
 ♥ A 8 2  
 ♦ Q J 9  
 ♣ J 10 7 4

♠ A 10 5  
 ♥ 9 7  
 ♦ A K 6 3  
 ♣ A K 9 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ 2			

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 2, you play dummy's ♠ 4 and East plays the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing just two more winners it looks straightforward to establish dummy's ♥ suit. Suppose you win the ♠T and play the ♥ 9. If the defenders win this trick you are home free. You win their ♠ return with your ♠A, then continue ♥s to drive out their last stopper while you still have the ♠K as a dummy entry.

This won't work against good defenders, who will hold up on the first ♥ trick and win the second. Then when they continue ♠s you won't have another ♥ to return to dummy, so while you can use the ♠K as an entry to establish the ♥s you will never get back to use the good ones.

Instead you should win the first trick with your ♠ A. Now when you attack ♥s a defensive holdup won't hurt you because you have TWO ♠ entries, the ♠ J by a finesse and the ♠ K.

So the ♠ finesse is an odds-on play to get a second dummy entry.