

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

21
 4 6
 9

West	North	East	South
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	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

6 ♣ by North

Lead: ♦ Q

♠ —

♥ A 5 2

♦ A K 6

♣ A K Q J 7 5 4

♠ J 8 6 2

♥ Q 9 8

♦ Q J 10 2

♣ 10 3

♠ A K Q 7 3

♥ 7 6 4

♦ 8 5 3

♣ 9 8

North is to play 6 ♣. East leads the ♦ Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 3

Partner's hand didn't turn out to be what you hoped for, you had in mind maybe the ♥ K and ♦ Q.

But this is what you got. First, be thankful East led a ♦ rather than a ♥. Second, see if you can find a way to fight yourself over to dummy and those three beautiful ♠s.

You have two possibilities for a ♣ entry, but you can only try one of them as you will see.

You can play a high ♣ and hope somebody plays the singleton ♣T. Then your ♣9 would be an entry. If this works you would probably make all 13 tricks,

but the chances are very slim.

You can play a low ♣ to dummy's ♣8. Assuming a defender takes the ♣T you can win his return and enter dummy with the ♣9. This play is guaranteed to give you the entry and is the one you should choose.

When you are missing 4 cards the probability of a 3-1 split is about 50%.

But the singleton can be any one of four cards - in this case it can be the ♣T, ♣6, ♣3 or ♣2. So the chance of one of the opponents holding specifically the singleton ♣T is only one-fourth of 50%, about 12.5%.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A K J 7 4
♥ 3
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ 10 6 2

♠ 9
♥ Q 10 4
♦ 6 5
♣ K Q J 8 7 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ Q 10 6 5 2
♥ 6 5 2
♦ A Q 7
♣ 9 4

8
9 8
15

♠ 8 3
♥ A K J 9 8 7
♦ K 10 4 3
♣ A

West North East South

Pass 2 ♣ Pass 1 ♥

Pass 4 ♥ Pass 3 ♥

Pass Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ A

South is to play 4 ♥. West leads the ♠ A, then ♠ K.

Losers: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 0 ♦ = 3? ♣ = 0
Total = 4?

This is the kind of hand that can get really messy if you aren't careful. You could ruff the ♠, then try to ruff some ♦s, but the defense can prevent you by leading trumps when you give up the ♦ tricks.

All in all a much better plan is to use dummy's ♣ suit after you unblock the Ace. The only flaw with that idea is that when you ruff the ♠, unblock the ♣ A, then play two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, there will still be a trump left out. And the defender might ruff a ♣ before you can take the discards you need. Do you see a way around this?

Do NOT ruff the second ♠ in dummy, just discard a ♦. If West plays a third ♠ you will ruff in your hand, then unblock the ♣ A, then pull trumps in 3 rounds ending in dummy. And run all those ♣ tricks. If West plays a trump or a ♣ the result will be the same. The defense can get one ♦ trick if they take it right now, but you still make your contract.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 8 2
♥ A K 6
♦ A Q J 7
♣ K 6 2

♠ K J 9
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ A 8 4



♠ 10 6 5 3
♥ Q 7 4
♦ 10 8
♣ J 9 5 3

21
11 3
5

♠ Q 7 4
♥ J 5 3
♦ 6 5 4 2
♣ Q 10 7

West	North	East	South
	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♣ 3			

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♣ 3, West plays the ♣ A.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 6

You have the possibility of one additional ♠ winner if East holds the ♠ K. However, ♦s is your best suit and if West holds the ♦ K you could gain all three winners that you need from that suit. But of course you need perhaps 2 dummy entries. Do you have them?

Well, you probably do. East's small ♣ lead probably indicates an honor, and with West playing the ♣ A you can be pretty sure that East holds the ♣ J. So by playing your ♣ K underneath the ♣ A you set up a second entry to dummy via the ♣ finesse.

Assume West now plays a ♥. Take your ♥ A and play a ♣ to dummy's ♣T. Lead a ♦ and finesse the ♦ J, which holds. Play another ♣ to dummy and finesse another ♦. Now play your ♦ A and smile when the ♦ K drops and your fourth ♦ becomes a winner.

By unblocking the ♣ K you were still pretty confident that you would get the two tricks, but the bonus was in the extra dummy entry your unblock created.

Deal 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 5 2
♥ 10 8 5 3
♦ A J 9 5 2
♣ 6

12
5 9
14

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♦ 5

♠ Q J
♥ A Q 6
♦ 8 4
♣ Q J 9 8 5 3



♠ K 10 9 8 3
♥ K J
♦ K 7 3
♣ A 10 2

North

2 ♣

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

2 NT

Pass

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♦ 5, East plays the ♦ Q.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=3 ♦=1 ♣=1 Total = 5

You must take the ♦ K right now or you might lose the first 5 tricks.

It's a shame about that solid ♠ suit, but if you try to win even a single ♠ they will grab the ♠ A and win enough ♦ tricks to set the contract.

So you are going to have to win a lot of ♣ tricks, and do so without losing the lead. You need dummy entries, and they must be in ♥s.

Win the ♦ K. Play the ♥ J to dummy's ♥ Q. Play the ♣ Q and when East follows with a low card let it ride. Still in dummy, play the ♣ J, again letting it ride when East

plays low. Play one more ♣ to your ♣ A, picking up East's ♣ K this time.

The ♣ suit is ready to run, so play your ♥ K to dummy's ♥ A and take your ♣ winners. You took 9 tricks in all, the ♦ K, the ♥ A Q and all 6 ♣s.

Since it gave you all 6 ♣ tricks the sacrifice was well worth it.