

Deal 1

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

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 5.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=5 Total = 9

Wow! The winners add up to 9 already. We have assumed that ♣s will split no worse than 3-1, which is exactly how they do split. Is there any other pitfall you might need to worry about?

Just one minor problem. The ♣s will block if you are not careful. If you win the ♠A, then play dummy's ♣Q. Next you play dummy's ♣8 to your ♣K. Then your ♣A on which you put dummy's ♣7. Aha! Now when you play your ♣6 you will be able to keep the lead.

As they are, though, the contract is cold. But only if you are a good bridge player!

Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 7 5 2**♥ K 4****♦ K 9 7****♣ Q 8 5****22
8 3
7****♠ A Q 9****♥ A 7 5 3****♦ A J 6 4****♣ A K****♠ 6 3****♥ J 10 9 8 2****♦ Q 10 2****♣ 9 7 4****♠ K J 4****♥ Q 6****♦ 8 5 3****♣ J 10 6 3 2****♠ 22****♥ 8 3****♦ 7****♣ 2****West North East South****2 ♣****Pass****2 NT****Pass****3 NT by South****Lead: ♠ 5**

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 5.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing two winners you will naturally consider your 5-card ♣ suit. After unblocking the ♣ A K you will need two entries to your hand; one to lead the ♣ J and drive out the ♣ Q, then a second to enjoy your good ♣ s.

The ♠ suit will provide one entry easily, but should you depend on the ♥ Q for the second entry?

No, for two reasons. Firstly the ♥ Q only gives you a 50% chance of being an entry. But more importantly, you already have your two sure entries in ♠s. As long as you take the first trick with dummy's ♠ A both your ♠ K and ♠ J can be entries.

Win the ♠ A. Play off dummy's ♣ A K. Lead the ♠ 9 to your ♠ J. Play your ♣ J (and another one if necessary) to establish the ♣ suit. Win whatever red card they play next with dummy's Ace. Play the ♠ Q to your ♠ K and cash your established ♠(s). Dummy's other red Ace will be your ninth trick.

You'd have to be very careless to miss this one.

Deal 3
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ K J 9 2 ♥ Q 10 9 3 ♦ 10 9 5 2 ♣ 6	♠ A 6 4 3 ♥ A J 4 ♦ A J ♣ A K 8 3
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♠ 10 7 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ K Q 7 3 ♣ J 9 4 2	♠ Q 8 5 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ Q 10 7 5
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21 6 7 6	West North East South Pass 2 NT Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass 3 NT 3 NT by North Lead: ♣ 5
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North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♣ 5. You play low from dummy and West plays the ♣ 6.

Winners: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 1 ♦ = 4? ♣ = 3
 Total = 9

Although you have 4 ♦ winners, getting to the last couple might not be so easy. You can make 3 ♦ tricks simply by winning your ♦ A, then overtaking your ♦ J with dummy's ♦ Q. But you need that fourth ♦ winner. Can you get it?

Sure you can, by creating an entry in ♣s. It is likely from the opening lead, (and West's play of a small card), that East has led from ♣ Q T 7 5. If you win the first trick cheaply then you will still make your ♣ A K for three ♣ tricks in all.

So don't win cheaply, win the first trick with the ♣ A. Then unblock your ♦ A J. Next play ♣ K. (on which West discards), and a small ♣ toward dummy's ♣ J 9. You are sure to have a ♣ entry to dummy's ♦s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

You probably would have played the hand the same way you just did, unblock ♦s, then play ♣ A K and a low ♣ toward the ♣ J 9 trying to get a ♣ entry to dummy.

It is only because the ♣ opening lead gives you the chance for a Cheap-Trick that you are tempted to go wrong.

Deal 4

North Deals	♠ 8 3		
None Vul	♥ J 7 4		
	♦ A 6 4 2		
	♣ 7 6 5 3		
♠ Q J 10 9 5	♠ K 7 4 2		
♥ A 9 3	♥ Q 10 8 6		
♦ 9 8 3	♦ 10 7		
♣ 10 8	♣ K 9 2		
	♠ A 6		
5	♥ K 5 2		
7 8	♦ K Q J 5		
20	♣ A Q J 4		
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ Q			

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ Q. East plays the ♠ K, then the ♠ 2 when you hold up.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=0 ♦=4 ♣=1 Total = 6

You are going to have to be pretty lucky to make this contract. You cannot touch the ♥ suit because a defender would take the ♥ A and it would start raining ♠s.

So you will have to get 3 extra ♣ winners, which means the ♣ finesse absolutely MUST work.

In addition to lucky, you are going to have to be pretty good, too. You will surely have to finesse the ♣s at least twice; that means you need two dummy entries. Can you find them?

Maybe in ♦s. Play the ♦ K, then ♦ Q, watching the defender's cards carefully. When both follow twice you know there is only a single ♦ left out, so you play the ♦ J to dummy's ♦ A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦ 5 to dummy's ♦ 6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Then your chance of success goes way down. You would have to find East with the doubleton ♣ K.