

Deal 1

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

West	North	East	South
	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♥
ALL	Pass		

6 ♥ by North
Lead: ♦ 8

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Check for Aces with Blackwood, partner replies 5 ♠. What next?

Partner shows three Aces. You can't consider a Grand Slam, so bid 6 ♥.

The contract would be 6 ♥ played by North.

To make South the declarer ROTATE.

South plays 6 ♥. West leads the ♦ 8, on which East plays the ♦ 9. You win the ♦ K.

If you look just at the North and South hands you would think this was a pretty easy slam to make. Pull trumps and play three rounds of ♦s, and as long as the ♦s split 3-2 you make twelve tricks. But when you consider the ♦ 8 opening lead you realize that it won't happen. The missing ♦s are Q J T 9 and 8. The ONLY combination from which West would lead the ♦ 8 is when he has a singleton. So the ♦s won't be splitting and you need a different plan.

You need to get a ♦ discard somewhere, and dummy's third ♠ will take care of one of YOUR ♦ losers. But then to establish YOUR hand you are going to have to ruff all 3 ♣ losers.

Play the ♠ A and ruff a ♣. Enter your hand with the ♥ T and ruff another ♣ high. Back to your hand with the ♥ J and ruff another ♣ high. Dummy is out of trumps but there is still one more in a defender's hand. So come to your hand with the ♠ Q and pull the last trump, discarding a ♦ from dummy.

With all the trumps pulled cash dummy's 2 ♠s and your ♦ A, then give up a ♦ at the last trick.

However it's a "role reversal", you pulled trumps with the short-trump hand and took three ruffs in the long-trump hand.

But call it whatever you like, that's the way to make this Deal.

Deal 2

East Deals

None Vul

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

4	20	16
o		

West	North	East	South
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
7 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
7 NT by East			
Lead: ♠ 10			

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

You have 16 points and partner has 20-21. If you bid 7 NT right now just because it is something you always wanted to do, then I don't blame you. But if you're cautious you'll use Gerber 4 ♣. Partner bids 4 ♠; what do you bid next?

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OK, you have all the Aces. You are missing 4 points at most, possibly a King and a Jack, or two Queens. You could continue with Gerber and find out about the Kings, or you could pick between 6 NT and 7 NT right now. You go for the gusto with 7 NT!

The contract would be 7 NT played by East.

To make West the declarer ROTATE.

West plays 7 NT. North leads the ♠ T. Do you play the ♠ A or a low card?.

If North has led from ♠ K T 9 x, then all you have to do to make this contract is play a low card from dummy. But a decent defender would not make such a risky lead against a 7 NT contract, so it is probable that South has the ♠ K. You rise with the ♠ A.

You hope the ♦s will split 3-3, but if they don't you still have the possibility of squeezing South if he holds 4 ♦s along with the ♠ K you have assigned to him.

If it comes to a squeeze it is important to take your tricks in the correct order. First take 4 ♠ tricks, discarding the ♠ J from your hand. You note that South discards a small ♠ on the fourth ♠.

Next take 4 ♥ winners, discarding dummy's useless ♠ 6 and keeping all 4 ♦s. On the fourth ♥ South must come down to a 4-card holding; he must either throw his ♠ K, (you are happy) or he can throw one of his ♦s, (you are happy).

to see what a great squeezer you are.

That means you didn't have to do anything special, just play your winners in the right order and keep your eyes open to see if the ♠ K gets discarded.

Of course if the ♦s were breaking 3-3 all the time you haven't lost anything by playing for the squeeze.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7
♥ 9 5 4
♦ 10 9 5 2
♣ J 10 9 7

8
3 13
16

♠ A 9 8 6 2
♥ K J 10 7 2
♦ 6

♣ 4 2



♠ J 10 4 3
♥ A 3
♦ K J 8 4
♣ A 5 3

♠ K 5
♥ Q 8 6
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ K Q 8 6

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

Partner's bid is a transfer asking you to bid 2 ♠, so you do. Partner now bids 3 ♥; what do you bid next?

Partner's bid is a transfer asking you to bid 2 ♠, so you do. Partner now bids 3 ♥; what do you bid next?

Partner is showing 5-5 in the Majors, with at least invitational strength. It's a close thing, but you decide to accept the invitation and bid 4 ♥.

The contract would be 4 ♥ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 4 ♥. East leads the ♣ J. You play the ♣ Q. West wins with the ♣ A and plays the ♥ A then the ♥ 3.

West trump play was good defense; it has prevented you from ruffing 2 ♠s in dummy. Even so your best plan will be to establish the ♠ suit.

So you next play ♠ K, ♠ A, then ruff a ♠ with dummy's ♥ Q. East does not follow to the third ♠.

Next play ♦ A and get to your hand by ruffing a ♦. Pull the last trump, then give up a ♠ to West. Win his return, (by ruffing if necessary) and take your established ♠ winner and dummy's ♠ K.

It would have done you no good at all.

If it worked, all you could do would be to discard your fifth ♠; but that was the ♠ that turned out to be a winner!

It was the fourth ♠ that was a loser, and you couldn't get rid of that one.

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 9 6 4
♥ 8 7 6 2
♦ K 7 5
♣ K 6

6
10 15
9

♠ J 10 7
♥ J 5
♦ Q J 9 2
♣ J 10 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ K 5
♥ A 9 4 3
♦ A 6 4
♣ A 9 8 2

♠ Q 8 3 2
♥ K Q 10
♦ 10 8 3
♣ Q 7 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
4 ♥ by West			
Lead: ♦ Q			

With 10 points and two 4-card Majors you bid 2 ♣ Stayman. Partner says 2 ♥; what do you bid next?

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Now you add a point for your doubleton, get to 11 points, and bid 4 ♥.

The contract would be 4 ♥ played by West.

To make East the declarer ROTATE.

East plays 4 ♥. South leads the ♦ Q. Win the ♦ Q in either hand. Lets say you win with your ♦ A.

*Don't get overconfident with this loser list. It assumes that trumps break 3-2, (if they don't you cannot make it), and also assumes you will be able to cross-ruff 4 small black cards.

Cross-ruffing those 4 losers could be a problem. You can't afford to get over-ruffed so it would be nice if you could pull some trumps before you start the cross-ruff. But you must make sure that only two rounds of trumps get pulled, otherwise you won't have the trumps for the cross-ruff.

It is actually simple to make sure exactly two rounds of trumps are drawn. At trick 2 just duck a ♥ in each hand. An opponent will win this, but you can take the next trick, (probably a ♦), and then pull a second round of trumps with your ♥ A. Then leave the trumps alone and play your two black A K's, then start cross-ruffing with your 4 tiny trumps. The defender with the master trump can over-ruff when he can, and can even cash a ♦. But that's all he can do so you will make your game.

North would have won the second one, and if he had then continued ♦s you would have made the contract.

But if he was a good enough defender to pull a THIRD round of trumps, getting 2 for the price of 1 value, you would have been defeated.