

Deal 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 4
 ♥ J 10 5 4
 ♦ 9 4 3
 ♣ K 7 5 2

12
 4 5
 19

♠ K 9 5
 ♥ A Q 2
 ♦ Q J 10 8 7
 ♣ 8 3



♠ A Q J 2
 ♥ 9 7 6
 ♦ A K 5
 ♣ A J 10

♠ 10 8 7 3
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ 6 2
 ♣ Q 9 6 4

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 NT by North			
Lead: ♠ 3			

North is to play 6 NT. East leads the ♠ 3.

Winners: ♠=4 ♥=1 ♦=5 ♣=1 Total = 11

You need one more winner from the ♥ or ♣ suit. The straight finesse of the ♥ K offers a 50% chance of success. The double finesse of the ♣ K Q offers a 75% chance of success. It's a no-brainer. Run 4 ♠s and 5 ♦s ending in your hand. Be very careful not to discard a ♣ from your hand.

Lead a small ♣ and play the ♣T if East plays low. Let's say West wins the ♣ K and returns a ♥.

DO NOT FINESSE THE ♥. Stick with your original 75% plan. Take the ♥ A and play your small ♣, finessing the ♣ J. This is why you couldn't discard a ♣ earlier.

The double ♣ finesse is much better because its success depends on East holding either of two cards, the ♣ Q OR the ♣ K.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 5

♥ 10 8 3

♦ K Q J 10 7

♣ 8 4 2

5
6 9
20

♠ 4 3

♥ 7 5 2

♦ A 6 5 3

♣ J 10 9 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q J 10 9 8

♥ A Q J

♦ 8 4

♣ A Q

♠ K 7 2

♥ K 9 6 4

♦ 9 2

♣ K 7 6 3

West	North	East	South
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Pass

2 ♦

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

2 NT

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♦ K

South is to play 4 ♠. West leads the ♦ K.

Losers: ♠=1 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=1 Total = 4

West has made another great lead. Any other suit would have given you a free finesse. You should duck the first ♦. It is very possible that West has led from ♦ K Q T and will be afraid to continue for fear you have the ♦ J in your hand. You'd be very happy to see him switch to any other suit. But he doesn't, he continues with the ♦ Q which you take with dummy's ♦ A.

You are in dummy for the first, last, and only time. You need to try a finesse right now, but which one? At first you might think it makes no difference but, in fact, there is only one reasonable choice. If you finesse the ♠ K successfully you may still have a ♠ loser. If you finesse the ♥ K

successfully you will surely still have a ♥ loser. But if you finesse the ♣ K successfully you will eliminate your ♣ loser.

But as you can see, only the ♣ finesse will actually save you a trick.

Deal 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ —
♥ 10 8 7 3
♦ K J 9 4
♣ K 8 6 5 2

14
7 8
11

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ K

♠ K Q J 9 6 5 4

♥ A 4

♦ A 5 2

♣ 7



♠ A 8 7 3

♥ 9 6

♦ 7 6 3

♣ A Q J 10

North

1 ♠

4 NT

6 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

3 ♠

5 ♥

Pass

North is to play 6 ♠. East leads the ♥ K.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=0 Total = 3

Your only hope for ridding yourself of two of those losers is dummy's ♣ suit. One possibility would be to finesse East for the ♣ K, and if that works, discard your ♥ loser on the ♣ A. You could then establish another ♣ winner for one of the ♦ losers. The problem with that plan is that if the finesse fails the defense will immediately take the setting ♥ trick.

A better plan is a ruffing finesse. Win the first trick with your ♥ A and pull trumps with your ♠ K Q.

Next play your ♣ 7 to dummy's ♣ A. Then lead the ♣ Q from dummy. If West plays the ♣ K you will ruff, enter dummy, and discard two red losers on the ♣ J T. If

West plays low instead, you discard your ♥ loser. East may be able to win the trick but you can ruff a ♥ return, and dummy will have two good ♣s on which you can discard 2 ♦ losers.

But they are easy to overlook, mainly because we don't use them often.

Deal 4

West Deals
None Vul

♠ K J 3
♥ Q 7 3
♦ K Q J 9 5
♣ 8 4

11
12 0
17

West
1 ♦
Pass
Pass
3 NT by South
Lead: ♦ K

♠ 9 4 2
♥ A 10 5
♦ 7 6 3
♣ A K 6 5



♠ A Q 5
♥ K J 9
♦ A 10 4
♣ Q J 9 2

North

Pass
3 NT

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 NT
Pass

♠ 10 8 7 6
♥ 8 6 4 2
♦ 8 2
♣ 10 7 3

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♦ K.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=4 Total = 8

You only need one more winner. If East has the ♠ K you can finesse him out of it. Or, you have a two-way finesse for the ♥ Q.

It is an easy choice. The defenders only have 12 HCP and West opened the bidding. So you know he must have both of the cards you are interested in.

Hold up the ♦ A until the third round just to be safe. Then play four rounds of ♣s ending in your hand.

Now play the ♥ J. If West doesn't cover, you will let it ride for your ninth trick. But West does cover so you take dummy's

♥ A, then your other 2 ♥ tricks. The ♠ A is your ninth trick.

Sometimes that may be right. But there are other times when information from the bidding or the opening lead allows you to make a higher-percentage guess.