

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 6 3

♥ K J 10

♦ K J 9 6

♣ 10 7 2

16
8 5
11

West

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 10

♠ A Q 4

♥ A 8 5

♦ A Q 8 4

♣ 8 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 5

♥ Q 7 4

♦ 10 7 2

♣ A J 9 5

North

1 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 NT

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠T; low cards from South and West, won by North with the ♠A.

North next plays the ♣3 and you must decide whether to split your ♣KQ.

When you have made your choice

If you split your Honors, playing the ♣Q perhaps, dummy's ♣A will take the trick and North will later play through your ♣K toward dummy's ♣J 9 5. Played in this way he will establish 3 ♣ winners (which he needs for the contract).

If you play low, he MIGHT finesse the ♣J and again establish 3 ♣ winners. But

North's correct play would be to put on dummy's ♣9, finessing East for the ♣T. This is because ♣KT or ♣QT are twice as likely as ♣KQ.

If he does play this way West will win the ♣T and your ♣KQ will get one more trick.

Deal 2

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 9 4
♥ K Q 6
♦ A Q 4
♣ 10 8 6

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ 10
♦ J 10 9 8 5 2
♣ Q 5



♠ 10 6 2
♥ 7 3
♦ K 7 6 3
♣ A 9 4 2

18
4 7
11

♠ Q 5
♥ A J 9 8 5 4 2
♦ —
♣ K J 7 3

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♥ by South
Lead: ♦ J

You are East. The bidding has been as shown, (wild).

Partner led the ♦ J; ♦ Q from dummy, ♦ K from you and ruffed by South.

South then pulls two rounds of trumps, (West discards on the second one), followed by his ♠ Q, dummy's ♠ A K and dummy's ♦ A. South discards ♣s on the last two cards.

The ♣ 6 is then played from dummy and you must make a decision - ♣ A or ♣ 2?

When you have made your choice

You have a full count on South's hand. He started with 2 ♠s, 7 ♥s, and no ♦s. His other 4 cards must have been ♣s, and he has discarded 2 of them.

So he has 2 ♣s left in his hand. If one of them is the ♣ K and you play your ♣ A then you have handed him the contract.

By playing low you give him a guess to make. If he plays the ♣ K he will make the contract, but if he plays the ♣ J he will go down. He will probably play the ♣ J, figuring you wouldn't have the nerve to duck with the ♣ A. He'll know better next time he plays against you.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10 7 3
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ 10 6 2
♣ 8 4

13
4 11
12

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♦ 5			

♠ J 9 5

♥ 9 3

♦ A K Q

♣ K 9 7 5 2



♠ K Q 4

♥ 7 4

♦ J 9 7 5 4

♣ A J 3

♠ 8 6 2

♥ A K Q J 10

♦ 8 3

♣ Q 10 6

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♦ 5; ♦ 3, ♦ T and won by North with ♦ K. North now leads the ♣ 9 from his hand and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

First ask yourself "Where are the ♦ A and ♦ Q?" West doesn't have either one or he would have played it at the first trick. So North has both of them. So with those 3 tricks and the 5 ♥s in dummy North only needs to find one more winner. Assuming he has the ♣ K, (or why play the suit), if you play low he will find that one more winner whichever high ♣ he plays.

Next ask yourself "Where is the ♠ A?" Clearly West DOES have this card;

otherwise North has his 9 tricks.

So the way to beat the contract is to go up with your ♣ A, then play ♠ K, ♠ Q and a third ♠, hoping West holds ♠ A x x x.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 5 2
 ♥ A Q 6 4 3
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ 10 6 3

12
 6 5
 17

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 4

♠ A K

♥ 10 9 7

♦ 10 9 6 2

♣ K Q 8 5



♠ Q 10 6

♥ K J 8

♦ K Q J 3

♣ A J 2

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

♠ J 9 7 4 3

♥ 5 2

♦ A 8 5

♣ 9 7 4

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥ 4, won by South's ♥ 8.

South enters dummy with the ♠ K and leads the ♦ T. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

You don't have much in your hand, but you do have the ♦ A, and you also have the responsibility to help West set up his suit.

So even though you don't know for sure how good that suit is, your plan of action should be to take the ♦ A and return a ♥.

As you see, this will defeat the contract. Had you played a low ♦ South would have

pocketed that trick and added 4 ♣s and 3 ♠s to go with the ♥ he had already won.

Deal 5

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 2
♥ 10 9 4
♦ Q J 8 7 4
♣ A 7 4

13
7 8
12

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

3 NT by North
Lead: ♠ 7

♠ A Q J
♥ K 6 5 3
♦ K 9 5 3
♣ 6 3



♠ 9 5 3
♥ A Q
♦ A 6
♣ Q 10 9 8 5 2

North

1 ♦
3 NT

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♣
2 ♣
Pass

♠ K 10 8 7 4
♥ J 8 7 2
♦ 10 2
♣ K J

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠ 7; ♠ 3, ♠ 2 and won by North with ♠ Q.

North then plays the ♣ 6 from his hand. Which ♣ should you play?

When you have made your choice

You should not allow yourself to be misled by North winning the first trick with the ♠ Q. West does not hold either the ♠ A or the ♠ J or he would have played it. North is just trying to be deceptive.

That means you need the next ♠ play to come from West, so you play your ♣ J and let West win his ♣ A. You can be sure West has the ♣ A because North would

have played the suit differently if he held the Ace.

West will win the ♣ A and return his ♠ through North's ♠ A Q. This allows you to set up your ♠ suit while you still have the ♣ K for an entry.