

**Deal 1**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 8 6 2

♥ 10 5

♦ 4 3 2

♣ A 8 5

♠ —

♥ 9 6

♦ K Q J 10 8 7

♣ Q J 9 7 2

W	N	E
S		

♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q J 8 7 4 2

♦ 9

♣ 10 4

11

9

11

♠ 10 7 5 4 3

♥ A 3

♦ A 6 5

♣ K 6 3

West

North

East

South

1 ♠

4 ♥

4 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ K

When the bidding gets high in a hurry you sometimes have to guess what you can make. North plays 4 ♠. East leads the ♥ K.

And it looks like you are too high. Assuming the trumps split 2-1, you still have one ♥ loser, two ♦ losers and one ♣ loser.

You win the ♥ A and play a ♠ to your ♠ K. West discards a ♦!

From bad to worse. Now you must add a ♠ loser to the four you already had. Are you finished?

No, never give up. East has a bunch of ♥s and 3 ♠s, so he cannot have many ♦s and ♣s. If you can eliminate those and then throw him in it should work to your advantage.

Play your ♠ A, the ♦ A and the ♣ A K. East follows to everything.

You've done all you can do. Now play the ♥ T to East's high ♥.

East has just won his side's first trick with the ♥ J. He now plays the ♠ Q, winning his side's second trick.

Now, East is still on lead, and he has nothing in his hand but good ♥s. So he leads one of them, and you DO NOT RUFF. Instead you discard a ♣ from dummy and a ♦ from your own hand. East has now taken his side's third trick. He plays another good ♥, and you ruff in dummy and discard the last ♦ loser from your hand. You can now cross-ruff for the rest of the tricks.

You just wonder how many bridge players would have just conceded down 2 on this hand.

Not you or me, of course.

**Deal 2**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10 9 3  
♥ 7 5 4  
♦ A J 6  
♣ Q 7 5

<sup>2</sup>  
**11 19**  
8

West  
3 ♠  
5 ♥  
Pass  
6 ♠ by East  
Lead: ♦ K

♠ 8 5  
♥ J 10 9 6  
♦ 9 8 7 4  
♣ J 9 2

N  
W E  
S

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

♠ 6  
♥ K 8 2  
♦ K Q 10 3 2  
♣ 10 8 6 4

North  
Pass  
Pass  
Pass  
Pass

1 ♠  
4 NT  
6 ♠

South  
Pass  
Pass  
Pass  
Pass

West's 3 ♠ is a limit raise, 11-12 points in support of ♠s. When you discover that the raise includes two Aces you bid the slam. East plays 6 ♠. South leads the ♦ K, won by you with dummy's ♦ A.

So rather than finesse, eliminate! Pull trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy.

Ruff the ♦ 6, then play ♣ A, ♣ K, ♣ Q.

So here you are in dummy. Do you finesse the ♥ now? Of course not. You play the ♦ J and discard a small ♥ from your hand. South wins his ♦ Q (which his opening lead told you he held) and is end-played. He must lead a ♥ to your tenace or give you a ruff-sluff.

It is a pretty simple problem, but you are no doubt getting a lot better.

**Deal 3**  
 West Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ Q 9 7 4</b> <b>♥ 6</b> <b>♦ A Q 8</b> <b>♣ K Q J 7 5</b>	<b>♠ A 8 5 3</b> <b>♥ Q 7 4</b> <b>♦ 9 7 6 2</b> <b>♣ 8 3</b>	<b>♠ J 10 2</b> <b>♥ 9 8 3</b> <b>♦ J 10 4</b> <b>♣ 9 6 4 2</b>
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**6**  
**14 2**  
**18**



<i>West</i> <b>1♣</b> Pass Pass Pass	<i>North</i> Pass <b>1♠</b> <b>4 ♥</b> Pass	<i>East</i> Pass Pass Pass	<i>South</i> Dbl <b>3 ♥</b> Pass
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4 ♥ by South  
 Lead: ♣ K

North realizes that to make a takeout double, then jump in your own suit you must have a very good hand. So he bids the game. South plays 4 ♥. West leads the ♣ K, which you take with the ♣ A.

Play one round of trumps with the ♥ A. You can't play any more because you will need an entry to dummy for the elimination.

Next play ♠ K, ♠ A and ruff a ♠ high.

Lead a ♥ to dummy's ♥ Q. West shows out. Play dummy's last ♠. East is now void, so if he ruffs you over-ruff. Otherwise you ruff with a small trump.

Now throw West in (you hope!) with the ♣ T.

Fortunately West has to take the ♣ T. Since he has nothing left but ♣s and ♦s he must lead one or the other. A ♦ lead will give you a trick with your ♦ K and a ♠ lead will allow you to ruff in dummy (East still has a ♠) and discard a ♦ from your hand.

It was not a complete elimination since East still had a trump when you threw West in. However, it worked because West was out of both ♠s and ♥s.

**Deal 4**

West Deals	♠ 4		
None Vul	♥ K J 9 5		
	♦ Q J 10 4		
	♣ Q 10 9 2		
♠ A K Q 6 3 2	♠ J 10 9 7 5		
♥ A 6 3	♥ 7		
♦ 7	♦ K 8 6 3		
♣ 7 6 4	♣ K 5 3		
	♠ 8		
9	♥ Q 10 8 4 2		
13 7	♦ A 9 5 2		
11	♣ A J 8		
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
4 ♠ by West			
Lead: ♦ Q			

last ♥.

You are in dummy, just where you want to be. Play the ♦ K, and when South plays the ♦ A don't ruff but instead discard a ♣ from your hand. You knew all along that he held the ♦ A.

South is end-played, forced to either break the ♣s and give you a ♣ trick, or give you a ruff-sluff.

It also depended upon the defenders not switching to ♣s at the second trick. If North had decided to switch to the ♣ Q you would have had no chance at all.

West is to play 4 ♠. North leads the ♦ Q.

The contract is in danger if South holds the ♣ A because you would have three ♣ losers to go with the ♦ already lost. One really good possibility is that South now has the lone ♦ A and you can set up dummy's ♦ K with a ruff.

So play a small ♠ to dummy's ♠ 9, (pulling the two outstanding trumps), and ruff another ♦ with an honor, hoping the ♦ A drops.

Too bad, the ♦ A did not fall so dummy's ♦ K is not a winner. But it will still prove to be useful.

Play the ♥ A, then ruff a ♥ in dummy. Play a trump to your ♠ A and ruff your last ♥.