

Deal 1

West Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 6 3 2**♥ Q 10 8 4****♦ 9 8 3****♣ A****11
7 10
12****♠ 9
♥ A 9 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K J 10 9 6 2**

W	N
S	E

**♠ A Q 10 5
♥ J 7 6 2
♦ Q J 10 7
♣ 5****♠ K 7 4
♥ K 5
♦ A 6 4
♣ Q 8 7 4 3**

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

5 ♣ by North**Lead: ♦ Q**

can lead up to the ♠ K and make a winner out of it.

Suppose you win the ♦ Q in dummy and play a ♣. Somebody will win the ♣ A and play another ♦. You win this and lead toward the ♠ K. No good. East jumps up with his ♠ A and sets you with a ♦ winner.

The problem was that when you played a trump you let the timing go to the defense. They could knock out your last ♦ stopper while they still had the ♠ A. Try it this way.

Win the ♦ in your hand and immediately play the ♠ 9. If East doesn't take his ♠ A he'll never get it, so assume he goes up. Now he leads ♦ J but you win, get to dummy with the ♥ K and play the ♠ K, discarding the ♦ loser.

In this hand that something is to establish the ♠ K so you can discard your ♦ loser.

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

Is there any doubt? Although you only have 11 HCP your 6-card suit adds 2 more. And with 13 points you should always open. So you open 1 ♣.

Partner responds 3 ♣. What do you bid?

With the ♣ fit your hand is now revalued to 15 points. But it's still a close thing. You may be able to make 5 ♣ or you may not.

Passing would not be horrible - but when in doubt it is usually better to be bold. You cross your fingers and bid 5 ♣.

North plays 5 ♣. East leads the ♦ Q.

Losers: ♠ 1 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 1 : Total = 3

The two black Aces aren't going away so if you are to make this contract you must do something about your ♦ loser. And the only likely place to put it is on dummy's ♠ K. If East has the ♠ A, you

Deal 2East Deals
None Vul

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

11
 5 7
 17

♠ A 6 3
 ♥ K Q 10 9 6 4
 ♦ A K J
 ♣ 8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	5 ♥

5 ♥ by South
 Lead: ♣ 10

♠ Q J 5
 ♥ J 8 7 3
 ♦ Q 7 4
 ♣ K Q 10

N
 W E
 S

♠ K 4 2
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ 9 8 3 2
 ♣ A 7 6 3

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You have a very good hand. But not good enough to open 2 ♣, so you open 1 ♥.

Partner jumps to 3 ♥. What do you bid?

This is close. Partner has 11 or 12 points and good ♥ support. Your hand revalues to 21 points. You might have a slam. You decide to try for it and bid 4 NT. Partner replies 5 ♣ showing no Aces. So much for the slam. You bid 5 ♥.

South plays 5 ♥. West leads the ♠ T. You put on dummy's ♠ J, East plays the ♠ K and you win the ♠ A.

Losers: ♠ 1 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 0 : ♣ 1 : Total = 3

You cannot avoid losing either of the two Aces. So therefore you must do something about the ♠ loser. And the only thing you can do with it is to discard it on one of dummy's ♣ s.

Be careful. If you lead a trump now a defender will take the Ace and play another ♠, exposing your loser while the ♠ A is still out. You must set up the ♠ first. So at trick 2 play your ♣ to dummy's ♣ Q. A defender may win this and play a ♠, but you win the ♠ Q and play the ♠ K, discarding your ♠ loser. Now you switch to trumps.

Imagine what the defense will do if you lead a round of trumps. Then imagine what they will do if you play a different suit instead.

Deal 3
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ K 10 9 8
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ Q J 4
 ♣ 9 7 2

19
 6 7
 8

♠ Q J 7 4
 ♥ A K
 ♦ 10 8 6 2
 ♣ A K Q

♠ 5 2
 ♥ Q J 10 8 4
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ J 8 6 3

♠ A 6 3
 ♥ 7 5 2
 ♦ A 7 5 3
 ♣ 10 5 4

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ Q

become a winner. Of course if West has the ♠ K then the finesse will fail, along with your chance of 2 more winners.

The correct way to play for 2 more tricks is to hope WEST has the ♠ K and lead twice toward your ♠ Q J. So win the first trick, play ♠ 4 to dummy's ♠ A. Lead the ♠ 3 toward your hand, playing the ♠ J if West plays low. (Of course if West ever plays the ♠ K he gives you two winners immediately.) When the ♠ J wins, return to dummy with the ♦ A and lead the ♠ 6 toward your ♠ Q.

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

With 19 points you are too strong to open 1 NT so you open 1 ♦. Partner responds 2 ♦. What do you bid?

Perhaps you can make 5 ♦. But 9 tricks are easier than 11 so you bid 3 NT. Notice that there was no reason to "show" your ♠ suit. If partner held 4 ♠s he would not have bid 2 ♦.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♥ Q.

Winners: ♠ 1 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 3 : Total = 7

You can create one winner in ♦s if they split 3-2, but too late, the defense would have set up their ♥s. So you must get 2 more ♠ tricks.

This is one of the most misplayed positions in bridge. The usual approach is to lead the ♠ Q, hoping that East holds the ♠ K. But this can't succeed. If East does hold the ♠ K he will cover, either this trick or the ♠ J, and someone's ♠ T will

Deal 4

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10 2

♥ 10 8 4

♦ J 10 9 3

♣ Q 10 5

♠ 6 4

♥ A 7 3

♦ K Q 5 4

♣ A K 8 2

W	N	E	S
16	K 5	J 9 5 2	A 8 6
7 8	Q J 9 8 7 3	A 8 6	9 7 6 3
9	K Q 6	7 2	J 4

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♦ J

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

HE WHO KNOWS, GOES You KNOW your side has 26-28 points. You KNOW your side has 8 or more ♠s. You GO to 4 ♠.

South plays 4 ♠. West leads the ♦ J.

Losers: ♠ 2/3 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 0 : Total = 3/4

You are definitely going to lose the ♦ A and the ♠ A K. Therefore you must plan to avoid losing a third ♠.

You should lead UP TO your honor cards. Cover the ♦ J and lose to East's ♦ A. Win his return (probably another ♦) in dummy. Lead a small ♠ to your ♠ J. West wins with an honor and probably plays the ♦ T. Ruff it, lead a ♠ to dummy and lead the last ♠. If East plays the other high honor you play low. If East plays low you guess whether to play the ♠ K, or ♠ T. Your best play is to assume the two honors were split and play the ♠ Q.

Now for an alternate possible.

You might think that West is just as likely to have held an original doubleton ♠ A K as doubleton ♠ A T, and that playing the ♠ 9 would be as good a play as ♠ Q.

This is untrue for a very classy-named reason - The Principle of Restricted Choice. You may not even believe it when you read it, but it's mathematically sound. If West were dealt an original ♠ A K, he would have been just as likely to win with the ♠ K as with the ♠ A. The fact that he actually won the ♠ A makes it less likely that he also holds the ♠ K.