

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 6 4
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ 9 6

20
6 9
5

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ 2

♠ A 10 8 5
♥ K Q 7 4
♦ A Q J
♣ K J



♠ K 9 7 2
♥ 6
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 7 4 3

North

2 NT

3 ♥

4 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

3 ♣

3 NT

Pass

When you have 4 cards in both Majors you respond 2 ♥ to a Stayman request. Partner now bids 3 NT. What do you bid?

When you have 4 cards in both Majors you respond 2 ♥ to a Stayman request. Partner now bids 3 NT. What do you bid?

Partner denies having 4 ♥s so he must have 4 ♠s (or he would not have used Stayman). You correct the contract to 4 ♠.

West grabs the opening lead with the ♥ A and plays the ♦ T.

The ♠, ♥ and ♣ losers are inevitable so you'd better not lose a ♦. Even though West has returned a ♦ it is still possible that he holds the ♦ K so the finesse has a chance of working. Let's say a 50% chance. Do you take it?

No, of course not. Not when you have a play that offers almost a 100% chance. Win the ♦ A, play ♠ K, ♠ A, then ♥ K Q, discarding dummy's 2 ♦ losers.

With one master trump still out you start on the ♣s, playing first the ♣ K, then overtake the ♣ J with dummy's ♣ Q. The defense is welcome to take their ♣ A whenever they want, and they are also welcome to their trump trick. You are so gracious because you have your ten tricks!

But the other 50% of the time East will have the ♦ K. On those Deals you get your just reward.

Deal 2

East Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 5
♥ A 9 8 4
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ Q 5

7
17 6
10

West

2 NT

Pass

3 NT by East

Lead: ♠ Q

♠ 9 6 4 2
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 10 6 2



♠ Q J 10 8
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ K

North

Pass

Pass

East

1 NT

3 NT

South

Pass

Pass

You do have 9 points, of a sort anyway. Hoping your ♣ suit will be of use, you invite with 2 NT. Partner says 3 NT.

The contract would be 3 NT played by East.

To make West the declarer ROTATE.

West plays 3 NT. North leads the ♠ Q, South following with the ♠ 2. Do you hold up or not?

No, don't hold up. At least you have ♠s stopped twice, your other suits are stopped only once.

Realizing that your only hope is for a bunch of ♣ tricks you win the ♠ K and play the ♣ Q. North covers with the ♣ K. What do you do?

If you win with dummy's ♠ A, and if the ♣s split 2-2, you can win 7 ♣ tricks and 4 other high cards. Wow!

But if it turns out that the ♣ K was singleton you will win just TWO ♣ tricks because dummy has no other entries.

So if you feel like gambling, go up with the ♣ A. But if you like the idea of a guaranteed contract let North hold the ♣ K, and you make sure of the six other ♣s.

The play went exactly as shown above. When her LHO played the ♣ K our declarer ducked in dummy and made the contract.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A K
♦ A J 3
♣ A 6 4 2

♠ Q
♥ Q 9 8 6 2
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q J 9 3



♠ K J 9 6
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ 10 8 5

16
10 5
9

♠ A 10 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ K Q 8 7 4 2
♣ 7

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♣ K			

It is tempting to just bid 3 NT and hope the ♦s come in. But not when you have a 4-card Major suit. Instead you bid a Stayman 2 ♣. Partner says 2 ♠; what do you bid next?

It is tempting to just bid 3 NT and hope the ♦s come in. But not when you have a 4-card Major suit. Instead you bid a Stayman 2 ♣. Partner says 2 ♠; what do you bid next?

Well, he has 4 ♠s. That's why you used Stayman so you bid 4 ♠.

The contract would be 4 ♠ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 4 ♠. East leads the ♣ K. Seeing T top tricks sort of makes you wish you had just bid 3 NT.

Missing 5 ♠s, the most likely split is 3-2, (68% of the time). You win the ♣ A and play a small ♠ toward dummy. East puts on the ♠ Q which you take with dummy's ♠ A, West following with the ♠ 6.

Do you play ♠s again? or not?

Not. With both defenders following suit, the possibility of 4 ♠ losers is gone so you can lose at most 3. But that ♠ Q from East is ominous. If you play another ♠ and they do split 3-2 you will make 11 tricks, losing only 2 trumps. But if West has 3 ♠s left he will win the trick, pull all the rest of the trumps, and lead a ♣ to East.

The guaranteed way to make the contract is to play no more ♠s, but to start playing ♦ winners. The defenders can make their 3 trump tricks but you maintain control of the hand.

But with a different distribution, (3-2), playing the second trump would have been great.

Considering probabilities it looks like this. If you play the second trump you will make 2 overtricks about 70% of the time, but you will go down 4 about 30% of the time.

If you stop with the ♠s and start running ♦s you will make your contract To% of the time but will never make an overtrick.

Deal 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K 10 6 2

♥ K Q 10 8 6 3

♦ 5

♣ 7 4

6
8 16
10

♠ A 8 5

♥ 4

♦ J 9 7 6 4 3

♣ J 10 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 4

♥ J 9 7 2

♦ Q 10

♣ A K 6 5

♠ Q J 3

♥ A 5

♦ A K 8 2

♣ Q 8 3 2

West

North

East

South

2 ♣

Pass

1 NT

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

4 ♥ by West

Lead: ♣ J

Yes, you have a 6-card ♥ suit. But you also have 4 ♠s, so you start with a Stayman 2 ♣.

Partner says 2 ♦; what do you bid?

Yes, you have a 6-card ♥ suit. But you also have 4 ♠s, so you start with a Stayman 2 ♣.

Partner says 2 ♦; what do you bid?

OK, no 4-4 ♠ fit. But partner has at least 2 ♥ so you know you have an 8-card (or better) fit there. With 10 points you have to decide whether to invite or insist, and you like the looks of this hand so you bid 4 ♥.

You play low from dummy and North continues with ♣T, then ♣9 which you ruff.

You don't expect a trump loser, and obviously you cannot afford to have one.

So after ruffing the third ♣ you play ♥ A, then ♥ Q. Aargh! North discards a ♦ on the second trump.

South has left the ♥ J 9 while you have the ♥ Q T 8. If only dummy had another ♥ you could finesse South's ♥ J, but, alas, dummy has none. Can you see another way to accomplish the finesse?

If you could manage to be in dummy after trick 11, and have nothing in your hand but the ♥ Q T, while South had nothing in his hand but the ♥ J 9 you would have him. But to accomplish this you must use up your ♥ 8 beforehand.

You enter dummy with a ♦, then play a small ♦ and ruff with your ♥ 8. Then play your ♠ K. North wins this and assume he plays another ♠.

Win the ♠ in dummy, then play ♦ K, and the other ♠ winner. If South has to follow to all these then you will have accomplished your objective; South will be down to ♥ J 9 and will have to ruff trick 12 with one of them - which you will over-ruff.

for the full layout.

When you played a third ♦ to ruff with your ♥ 8, South COULD have ruffed this. If he had, it would have handed you your contract since you could over-ruff and take care of your trump problem immediately.

By the way, ruffing a card to purposely shorten your trump holding is called a Trump Coup.

Deal 5

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ 10 6 5 3

17
4 9
10

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ K

♠ A 7 2
♥ K 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ A Q 7 2



♠ 10 5
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ K J 8

North

1 NT

3 NT

East

2 ♠

Pass

South

3 ♠

Pass

♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ J 10
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 9 4

Partner's cue-bid is the lebensohl version of Stayman, in this case promising 4 ♥s. Since it is an immediate cue-bid it denies a ♠ stopper.

You are forced to bid and you don't have 4 ♥s.

But you DO have a ♠ stopper so you decide bid 3 NT.

You hold up your ♠ A until the third round; East started with 6 ♠s.

You need just one more winner. It cannot come from either ♣s or ♠s. Unless a defender foolishly discards a ♥ it can't come from that suit. Which means you have to win a ♦ trick.

So after winning the ♠ A, you play a ♣ to dummy's ♣ K, then lead a small ♦ toward your hand and play . . . what?

At first this looks like the classic King / Jack guess situation where you try to figure out if East is more likely to have the Ace or the Queen.

But it isn't like that at all. If East has the ♦ A then he will take it no matter which ♦ you play, and will defeat you with 1 ♦ and 5 ♠ tricks. Your ONLY chance to make this contract is for West to hold the ♦ A. So you play the ♦ K, then you . . .

. . . to see if you make the contract or not.

Smart you, if you had played the ♦ J you'd be down 2.

Deal 6

East Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 4
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A J 7 3
♣ J 5

♠ K 5
♥ A 6 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 6 3



♠ A 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 8
♦ K 10 5
♣ 9 8 2

11
16 7
6

♠ J 9
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ 10 7 4

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
4 ♠ by East			
Lead: ♥ Q			

You have an invitational strength hand with a 6-card Major suit. It's a no-brainer; you transfer with a 2 ♥ bid. Partner says 2 ♠; what do you bid next?

You have an invitational strength hand with a 6-card Major suit. It's a no-brainer; you transfer with a 2 ♥ bid. Partner says 2 ♠; what do you bid next?

Repeat: You have an invitational strength hand with a 6-card Major suit. So you invite with 3 ♠. Partner accepts with 4 ♠.

The contract would be 4 ♠ played by East.

To make West the declarer ROTATE.

West plays 4 ♠. North leads the ♥ Q. Of course you take the ♥ A.

Missing 5 ♠s, the most likely split is 3-2, (68% of the time). You win the ♥ A then play ♠ K and ♠ A, both defenders following to both leads but the ♠ Q is still out there.

Do you play ♠s again or not?

Usually it is a good idea to leave a master trump un-pulled and go about your business winning tricks in other suits. The idea is to force them to ruff without using any more of your trumps. But that is only "usually". Here your big source of winners is going to be the ♣ suit - and there are zero outside entries to it. Suppose you do not force out the ♠ Q, but start playing ♣ winners. A defender might ruff the third ♣ and you would be doomed.

So play one more ♠ and they are doomed.

Almost always the answer is "not to pull".

The big exception is when you have a running suit in one hand but with no outside entries to it. A hand exactly like this one.

Deal 7

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ Q 6 4
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ 9 6

20
6 9
5

♠ A 10 8 5
♥ K Q 7 4
♦ A Q J
♣ K J



♠ K 9 7 2
♥ 6
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 7 4 3

♠ J 3
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ A 8 5 2

Deal 8

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 5
♥ A 9 8 4
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ Q 5

7
17 6
10

♠ 9 6 4 2
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 10 6 2



♠ Q J 10 8
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ K

♠ 7 3
♥ 6 5
♦ J 2
♣ A J 9 8 7 4 3

Deal 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q
♥ Q 9 8 6 2
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q J 9 3

16
10 5
9

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A K
♦ A J 3
♣ A 6 4 2



♠ A 10 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ K Q 8 7 4 2
♣ 7

♠ K J 9 6
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ 10 8 5

Deal 10

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ K 10 6 2

♥ K Q 10 8 6 3

♦ 5

♣ 7 4

6
8 16
10

♠ A 8 5

♥ 4

♦ J 9 7 6 4 3

♣ J 10 9



♠ Q J 3

♥ A 5

♦ A K 8 2

♣ Q 8 3 2

♠ 9 7 4

♥ J 9 7 2

♦ Q 10

♣ A K 6 5

Deal 11

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ 10 6 5 3

17
4 9
10

♠ A 7 2
♥ K 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ A Q 7 2



♠ 10 5
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ K J 8

♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ J 10
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 9 4

Deal 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 5
♥ A 6 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 6 3

11
16 7
6

♠ Q 10 4
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A J 7 3
♣ J 5



♠ J 9
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ 10 7 4

♠ A 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 8
♦ K 10 5
♣ 9 8 2

Deal 13

North Deals

Both Vul

♠ Q 6 4
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ 9 6

20
6 9
5

♠ A 10 8 5
♥ K Q 7 4
♦ A Q J
♣ K J



♠ K 9 7 2
♥ 6
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 7 4 3

♠ J 3
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ A 8 5 2

Deal 14

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 5
♥ A 9 8 4
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ Q 5

7
17 6
10

♠ 9 6 4 2
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 10 6 2



♠ Q J 10 8
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ K

♠ 7 3
♥ 6 5
♦ J 2
♣ A J 9 8 7 4 3

Deal 15

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q
♥ Q 9 8 6 2
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q J 9 3

16
10 5
9

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A K
♦ A J 3
♣ A 6 4 2



♠ A 10 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ K Q 8 7 4 2
♣ 7

♠ K J 9 6
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ 10 8 5

Deal 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K 10 6 2
♥ K Q 10 8 6 3
♦ 5
♣ 7 4

6
8 16
10

♠ A 8 5
♥ 4
♦ J 9 7 6 4 3
♣ J 10 9



♠ 9 7 4
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ Q 10
♣ A K 6 5

♠ Q J 3
♥ A 5
♦ A K 8 2
♣ Q 8 3 2

Deal 17

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ 10 6 5 3

17
4 9
10

♠ A 7 2
♥ K 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ A Q 7 2



♠ 10 5
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ K J 8

♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ J 10
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 9 4

Deal 18

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 5
♥ A 6 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 6 3

11
16 7
6

♠ Q 10 4
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A J 7 3
♣ J 5



♠ J 9
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ 10 7 4

♠ A 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 8
♦ K 10 5
♣ 9 8 2

Deal 19

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q 6 4
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ 9 6

20
6 9
5

♠ A 10 8 5
♥ K Q 7 4
♦ A Q J
♣ K J



♠ K 9 7 2
♥ 6
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 7 4 3

♠ J 3
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ A 8 5 2

Deal 20
 West Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A K 5
 ♥ A 9 8 4
 ♦ A 8 6 3
 ♣ Q 5

7
 17 6
 10

♠ 9 6 4 2
 ♥ K Q 10
 ♦ Q 10 5
 ♣ 10 6 2



♠ Q J 10 8
 ♥ J 7 3 2
 ♦ K 9 7 4
 ♣ K

♠ 7 3
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ A J 9 8 7 4 3

Deal 21

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q
♥ Q 9 8 6 2
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q J 9 3

16
10 5
9

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A K
♦ A J 3
♣ A 6 4 2



♠ A 10 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ K Q 8 7 4 2
♣ 7

♠ K J 9 6
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ 10 8 5

Deal 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 8 5

♥ 4

♦ J 9 7 6 4 3

♣ J 10 9

♠ K 10 6 2

♥ K Q 10 8 6 3

♦ 5

♣ 7 4

6
8 16
10



♠ Q J 3

♥ A 5

♦ A K 8 2

♣ Q 8 3 2

♠ 9 7 4

♥ J 9 7 2

♦ Q 10

♣ A K 6 5

Deal 23

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ 10 6 5 3

17
4 9
10

♠ A 7 2
♥ K 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ A Q 7 2



♠ 10 5
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ K J 8

♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ J 10
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 9 4

Deal 24

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K 5
♥ A 6 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 6 3

11
16 7
6

♠ Q 10 4
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A J 7 3
♣ J 5



♠ J 9
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ 10 7 4

♠ A 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 8
♦ K 10 5
♣ 9 8 2

Deal 25

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q 6 4
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ 9 6

20
6 9
5

♠ A 10 8 5
♥ K Q 7 4
♦ A Q J
♣ K J



♠ K 9 7 2
♥ 6
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 7 4 3

♠ J 3
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ A 8 5 2

Deal 26
East Deals
Both Vul

♠ A K 5
♥ A 9 8 4
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ Q 5

7
17 6
10

♠ 9 6 4 2
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 10 6 2



♠ Q J 10 8
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ K

♠ 7 3
♥ 6 5
♦ J 2
♣ A J 9 8 7 4 3

Deal 27

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q
♥ Q 9 8 6 2
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q J 9 3

16
10 5
9

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A K
♦ A J 3
♣ A 6 4 2



♠ A 10 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ K Q 8 7 4 2
♣ 7

♠ K J 9 6
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ 10 8 5

Deal 28

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 10 6 2
♥ K Q 10 8 6 3
♦ 5
♣ 7 4

6
8 16
10

♠ A 8 5
♥ 4
♦ J 9 7 6 4 3
♣ J 10 9



♠ 9 7 4
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ Q 10
♣ A K 6 5

♠ Q J 3
♥ A 5
♦ A K 8 2
♣ Q 8 3 2

Deal 29

North Deals

Both Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ 10 6 5 3

17
4 9
10

♠ A 7 2
♥ K 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ A Q 7 2



♠ 10 5
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ K J 8

♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ J 10
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 9 4

Deal 30
East Deals
None Vul

♠ K 5
♥ A 6 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 6 3

11
16 7
6

♠ Q 10 4
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A J 7 3
♣ J 5



♠ J 9
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ 10 7 4

♠ A 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 8
♦ K 10 5
♣ 9 8 2

Deal 31

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q 6 4
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ 9 6

20
6 9
5

♠ A 10 8 5
♥ K Q 7 4
♦ A Q J
♣ K J



♠ K 9 7 2
♥ 6
♦ 7 4 3
♣ Q 10 7 4 3

♠ J 3
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ A 8 5 2

Deal 32

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A K 5
♥ A 9 8 4
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ Q 5

7
17 6
10

♠ 9 6 4 2
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 10 6 2



♠ Q J 10 8
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ K

♠ 7 3
♥ 6 5
♦ J 2
♣ A J 9 8 7 4 3

Deal 33

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q
♥ Q 9 8 6 2
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q J 9 3

16
10 5
9

♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A K
♦ A J 3
♣ A 6 4 2



♠ A 10 4 3
♥ 7 3
♦ K Q 8 7 4 2
♣ 7

♠ K J 9 6
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ 10 8 5

Deal 34

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 10 6 2
♥ K Q 10 8 6 3
♦ 5
♣ 7 4

6
8 16
10

♠ A 8 5
♥ 4
♦ J 9 7 6 4 3
♣ J 10 9



♠ Q J 3
♥ A 5
♦ A K 8 2
♣ Q 8 3 2

♠ 9 7 4
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ Q 10
♣ A K 6 5

Deal 35

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ 10 6 5 3

17
4 9
10

♠ A 7 2
♥ K 5
♦ K J 6 3
♣ A Q 7 2



♠ 10 5
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ K J 8

♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ J 10
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 9 4

Deal 36

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ K 5
♥ A 6 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 6 3

11
16 7
6

♠ Q 10 4
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A J 7 3
♣ J 5



♠ J 9
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ 10 7 4

♠ A 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 8
♦ K 10 5
♣ 9 8 2