

Deal 1

♠ A K 8 6 2

North Deals ♥ 10 5

None Vul ♦ 4 3 2

♣ A 8 5

♠ —

♥ 9 6

♦ K Q J 10 8 7

♣ Q J 9 7 2

W N
S E

♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q J 8 7 4 2

♦ 9

♣ 10 4

♠ 10 7 5 4 3

♥ A 3

♦ A 6 5

♣ K 6 3

11
9 9
11

West North East South

Pass 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

2
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



♠ 6

♥ K 8 2

♦ K Q 10 3 2

♣ 10 8 6 4

North

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♠

4 NT

6 ♠

South

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

♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ 6
♦ A Q 8
♣ K Q J 7 5

6
14 2
18

♠ A 8 5 3
♥ Q 7 4
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ 8 3



♠ K 6
♥ A K J 10 5 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ A 10

♠ J 10 2
♥ 9 8 3
♦ J 10 4
♣ 9 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
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

None Vul

♠ A K Q 6 3 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ 7

♣ 7 6 4

9
13 7
11

West

1 ♠

Pass

4 ♠ by West

Lead: ♦ Q

♠ 4

♥ K J 9 5

♦ Q J 10 4

♣ Q 10 9 2

N
W E
S

♠ 8

♥ Q 10 8 4 2

♦ A 9 5 2

♣ A J 8

North

Pass

Pass

East

4 ♠

South

Pass

♠ J 10 9 7 5

♥ 7

♦ K 8 6 3

♣ K 5 3

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 ♥.

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.