

Deal 1

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 5 4 2
♥ 7 3
♦ A 8 4
♣ Q J 9 6

10
7 7
16

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 7

♠ Q 10 6
♥ K 8
♦ K Q 6 5
♣ 8 7 5 3



♠ K J 7
♥ A 9 5
♦ J 10 9 2
♣ A K 10

North

3 NT

East

2 ♥

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

♠ A 8 3
♥ Q J 10 6 4 2
♦ 7 3
♣ 4 2

South's 2 NT overcall shows a 1 NT opening hand with ♥s stopped. South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♥ 7. East plays the ♥ T.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 4

You will need to establish both ♠ and ♦ winners. If East holds both these Aces along with 6 ♥s to the Q J then you are going down. But of course East can't have that good a hand, he opened with a Weak-2. So West has one of the Aces.

If you knew which Ace East held you could make sure you attacked that suit first but unfortunately you have no way of knowing that. So instead you resort to a hold-up. Let East have the first ♥ and win the next ♥ in dummy.

Start on ♦s next, maybe because they are longer. Assume that West holds the ♦ A and takes it on the third round of the suit.

West glares at you, (because he has no ♥ to lead), and plays the ♣ Q which you take with your ♣ A. Next you score your ♦ winners and play a ♠, taken by East with the ♠ A.

East glares at you, (because you still have the ♥ A), and plays another ♥ to your Ace. You take your 3 tricks and let West have the last ♣.

If you did not hold up on the first trick, but established ♠s first you would have made the contract even though you played incorrectly.

If you held up on the first trick you made the contract no matter which Ace West held.

Deal 2

South Deals ♠ A Q 6
 None Vul ♥ 8 4 2
 ♦ 7 6 5 2
 ♣ K Q 3

♠ 9 4 3
 ♥ K Q 10 9 5
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ 10 5 2



♠ J 10 8 7
 ♥ 6
 ♦ K J 10 9
 ♣ J 9 8 4

11
 7 6
 16

♠ K 5 2
 ♥ A J 7 3
 ♦ A 8 3
 ♣ A 7 6

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ K			

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♥ K. East plays the ♥ 6.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 8

You just need one more winner and it could come from the ♦ suit if it happens to split 3-3. But you have another possibility. Suppose you let West hold the first trick and he decides to play another ♥? You would have two ♥ winners.

This isn't a true hold-up play although it does look like one. This play has the rather fancy name of Bath Coup, (named from Bath, England). Presumably West has led from ♥ K Q T 9 5 and East has played his singleton ♥ 6. If West realizes that East has played his lowest card he will take that as a discouraging signal and will play a different suit. So you throw

out your ♥ 7 rather than the ♥ 3. Now West may think that East is encouraging him to continue, just what you want.

Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't.

Because if he doesn't you're going to have to end-play him.

Do you see how that might happen?

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A K J 5
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ 9 6 4
♣ 10 3

10
9 6
15

West

Pass
Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ J

♠ 9 6 2
♥ Q 5
♦ Q 10 5
♣ A Q 9 7 4



♠ Q 8 4
♥ A 7 2
♦ A J 8
♣ K J 8 6

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

♠ 10 7 3
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ K 7 3 2
♣ 5 2

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♥ J. You try dummy's ♥ Q but East plays the ♥ K.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=5 Total = 7

Things do not look good. You have only one ♥ stopper, the ♠ suit is wide open, and you have to have the ♦ finesse to get the two extra winners you need.

First problem: Do you hold up the ♥ A or not?

No, don't hold up. If you do they might take 4 ♠ tricks immediately, then go back to ♥s. Since your only hope of making this contract is the ♦ finesse you should grab the ♥ A, play 5 rounds of ♣s then finesse for the ♦ K.

to see if you made the contract. Or not.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 6 3

♥ K J 9 6 3

♦ 8 4 2

♣ Q 9

6

6 7

21

♠ Q 7 4

♥ 8 5

♦ K J 10 3

♣ 7 5 4 2



♠ A K 5

♥ A 7 2

♦ A Q 6 5

♣ K J 6

♠ J 10 8 2

♥ Q 10 4

♦ 9 7

♣ A 10 8 3

West

North

East

South

Pass

3 NT

Pass

2 NT

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 6

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♥ 6.
East plays the ♥ Q.

Make a Plan, then .

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=1 ♦=4 ♣=0 Total = 8

Needing only one more winner you decide to hold up on the first ♥ and also the ♥ continuation. You take your ♥ A on the third round, West having used the ♥ 3 to drive out your ♥ A.

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You need one trick from the ♣ suit, so you win 4 ♦ tricks, then the ♠ A, ♠ Q, putting you in dummy. Next you play a ♣ from dummy, and when East plays low you put on . . . which ♣?

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You need one trick from the ♣ suit, so you win 4 ♦ tricks, then the ♠ A, ♠ Q, putting you in dummy. Next you play a ♣ from dummy, and when East plays low you put on . . . which ♣?

This is not a guess. If West has the ♣ A he will get the lead and when he does he will set you with 2 more ♥ tricks. So you assume that East has the ♣ A and play your ♣ K.

to see if your smart play is rewarded.

But it's not enough to just be smart enough to hold up, you must also be able to figure out how to make the best plays later as well.