

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 7
♥ 10 7 6 4 2
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ 7

13
4 9
14

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

♠ A J 5

♥ K Q

♦ Q J 8

♣ 10 9 8 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 3

♥ A J 3

♦ K 5 2

♣ K Q J 6 2

♠ K Q 10 4 2

♥ 9 8 5

♦ 10 9 7

♣ A 4

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ K, West played the ♠ 7 and North the ♠ 5.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You can see the ♠ 6, ♠ 5, ♠ 4, ♠ 3 and ♠ 2. So the ♠ 7 is West's lowest ♠, he is doing his best to discourage you from leading the suit again.

North held up with ♠ A J x, hoping you would play the suit again and give him two tricks.

If you play the ♦ T West will win the ♦ A and return a ♠, allowing you to drive out North's ♠ A while you still have the ♣ A for an entry.

Deal 2

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2

5
14 12
9

West

3 ♣

Pass

3 NT by East

Lead: ♠ K

♠ J 7 5
♥ 10 7 6 4 2
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ 7



♠ K Q 10 4 2
♥ 9 8 5
♦ 10 9 7
♣ A 4

North

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♣

3 NT

South

1 ♠

Pass

You are South. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ K, North played the ♠ 7 and East the ♠ 8.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You cannot see the ♠ 5. The most likely reason is that North has it, and his ♠ 7 is an encouraging signal. The only reason he would encourage you is if he held either the ♠ A or ♠ J.

Together, you two continue to play ♠s to drive out East's ♠ A. When you get the lead with your ♣ A you will cash your ♠ winners and North will still have the ♦ A for some icing on the cake.

There IS another possibility if East is a better than average Declarer. North just might hold ♠ 9 7, giving East ♠ A J 8 5. East played the ♠ 8 as a falsecard to tempt you into playing the suit again. This isn't too likely, but if it happens just congratulate East for the fine play.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10 7 2

♥ K J 8 3

♦ Q 8 6

♣ J 4

♠ 5 4

♥ 6 4

♦ J 7 3

♣ A K Q 6 5 3



♠ K 8 6 3

♥ Q 10

♦ 10 9 5 4 2

♣ 8 2

♠ Q J 9

♥ A 9 7 5 2

♦ A K

♣ 10 9 7

11
10 5
14

West

North

East

South

2 ♣

3 ♣

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♥

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A, dummy played the ♣ 4 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

West will play the ♣ Q on which you will play the ♣ 2.

West now knows you started with a doubleton, and more importantly, he also knows you want him to play a third ♣.

When he next plays the ♣ K dummy will ruff, but whatever card he ruffs with you will have established a trump trick. When you later win your ♠ K that will be down 1.

Deal 4

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 5
♥ A K Q 5
♦ A 10 6
♣ Q 10 3

5
22 5
8

West
2 ♣
2 NT
Pass
3 NT by West
Lead: ♦ 5

♠ 7 3
♥ J 8 4 3
♦ K J 9 5 2
♣ 8 2



♠ Q 10 9 6 2
♥ 10 9
♦ Q 7 3
♣ A 7 4

♠ J 8 4
♥ 7 6 2
♦ 8 4
♣ K J 9 6 5

East
2 ♦
3 NT

South
Pass
Pass

You are North. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♦ 5, South wins the ♦ Q and returns the ♦ 7. West holds up his ♦ A until the third round. He then plays the ♣ Q and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You assume (hope) that South holds the ♣ A. If he does then he will need help from you to decide which trick he should win. You play the ♣ 8 first, and the ♣ 2 next to show an even number.

If South is paying attention he will know to win the THIRD ♣. This will kill dummy's ♣ suit, and with it West's chance of making 9 tricks.

Deal 5

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 8 4
♥ Q J 9
♦ K 9 5 2
♣ 9 3

10
8 8
14

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

4 ♥ by North
Lead: ♣ A

♠ K 9 3
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ J 8
♣ Q 7 4



♠ A
♥ K 10 8 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ J 8 6 2

North

1 ♥
4 ♥

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♦
2 ♥
Pass

♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A K 10 5

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A, dummy played the ♣ 2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you signal with the ♣ 9 East will continue with the ♣ K and another which you will have to ruff. You will give up your NATURAL trump trick by doing so. Worse, you will allow South's ♣ J to be established as a winner that North can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and North will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦ K, return the ♣ 9 back to East's ♣ K, and still have your trump trick for later.