

**Deal 1**

South Deals	♠ K 9 7 6 4
None Vul	♥ 6 4
	♦ K 10 3
	♣ K 8 2

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



9	♠ A J 10 8 3
4 7	♥ A 3
20	♦ A J 7
	♣ A Q 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ Q

end-played.

The defender who won the last trick cannot lead a trump because he has none. If he leads a ♥ or a ♣ you will get a ruff-sluff, ruffing in one hand while discarding a ♦ loser from the other. If he leads a ♦ you will get the free finesse you were hoping for all along.

With an elimination play you make it no matter who holds the Queen.

North's 3 ♠ bid is a limit raise showing T-12 points and good trump support. South is to play 6 ♠. West leads the ♥ Q.

With one certain ♥ loser you cannot afford to lose a ♦ also. You could guess which way to finesse and be correct half of the time. But an elimination play will work ALL of the time.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Next play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate that suit from both your and dummy's hand.

With all the eliminations completed you are ready for the throw-in. Lead a ♥ from either hand. One of the defenders will win, (you don't care which), and will be

**Deal 2**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

<p>♠ Q 2          ♥ Q J 10 7          ♦ K 9 6 4          ♣ J 7 4</p>	<p>♠ K 9 7 6 4          ♥ 6 4          ♦ J 7 3          ♣ Q 8 2</p>
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	<p>♠ 5          ♥ K 9 8 5 2          ♦ A 10 8          ♣ 10 9 6 3</p>
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<p>6          9 7  <b>18</b></p>	<p>♠ A J 10 8 3          ♥ A 3          ♦ Q 5 2          ♣ A K 5</p>
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West      North      East      South

Pass      4 ♠      Pass      Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ Q

South is to play 4 ♠. West leads the ♥ Q.

This should remind you a lot of Deal 1. This time you have 1 ♥ loser and 3 ♦ losers. If you can force the opponents to lead ♦s you can make a trick with the ♦ Q or ♦ J, avoiding one of those losers.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Next play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate that suit from you and dummy.

The eliminations are complete and it is time for the throw-in. Play the small ♥ from whichever hand you are in. This will be taken by one of the defenders.

No matter which defender wins the ♥ he is end-played. A ♥ or a ♣ will give you a

ruff-sluff, but if he leads a ♦ you cannot be prevented from establishing either your ♦ Q or ♦ J as a winner.

Only by forcing them to start the ♦s can you take a trick in the suit.

**Deal 3**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ Q 2</b> <b>♥ Q J 10 7</b> <b>♦ Q 8 6 4</b> <b>♣ J 7 4</b>	<b>♠ K 9 7 6 4</b> <b>♥ 6 4</b> <b>♦ K 10 3</b> <b>♣ K 8 2</b>
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	<b>♠ 5</b> <b>♥ K 9 8 5 2</b> <b>♦ J 5 2</b> <b>♣ 10 9 6 3</b>
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<b>9</b> <b>8 4</b> <b>19</b>	<b>♠ A J 10 8 3</b> <b>♥ A 3</b> <b>♦ A 9 7</b> <b>♣ A Q 5</b>	<i>West</i> <i>North</i> <i>East</i> <i>South</i>	<b>1 ♠</b> <b>6 ♠</b>
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Pass      3 ♠  
 Pass      Pass

6 ♠ by South  
 Lead: ♥ Q

South is to play 6 ♠. West leads the ♥ Q.

This is another follow-up to Deal 1. But this time you are missing both the ♦ Q and ♦ J. In this case an Elimination play doesn't give you a guarantee, it just improves your odds.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate the suit from you and dummy.

Now execute the throw-in by leading a ♥ from either hand.

The defender who gets thrown in cannot play a ♥ or a ♣ without handing you the contract by way of a ruff-and-sluff. So he must lead a ♦. Suppose it is West who

leads the ♦. You play low in dummy and East must play either the ♦ Q or ♦ J to keep you from getting a cheap trick with your ♦ 9. So you take East's honor with your ♦ A and then finesse West for the other honor. As long as the ♦ Q and ♦ J are in different hands the elimination play will succeed.

By forcing them to start the ♦s you make three tricks when the two outstanding honors are divided.

**Deal 4**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ K J 4</b> <b>♥ 10 5</b> <b>♦ J 10 9 3 2</b> <b>♣ Q 7 4</b>	<b>♠ 9 7 3</b> <b>♥ K J 8 2</b> <b>♦ A 8 4</b> <b>♣ K 10 3</b>
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<b>♠ A Q 10 2</b> <b>♥ 6 4</b> <b>♦ Q 7 5</b> <b>♣ 9 8 6 2</b>
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<b>♠ 8 6 5</b> <b>♥ A Q 9 7 3</b> <b>♦ K 6</b> <b>♣ A J 5</b>
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<i>West</i> Pass Pass	<i>North</i> 3 ♥ Pass	<i>East</i> Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 1 ♥ 4 ♥
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4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♦ J

♣ Q.

South is to play 4 ♥. West leads the ♦ J.

Win the ♦ K, then pull trumps, it takes two rounds.

Next you eliminate the ♦s by playing ♦ A then ruffing the ♦ 8.

Execute the throw-in by leading a ♠.

The defense is in with a ♠ and they are welcome to take two more ♠s. But then they will have to play a ♠ or a ♦, giving you a ruff-sluff, or else lead a ♣ which finds the ♣ Q for you.

Here you were lucky the defense didn't start by taking their three ♠s. If they had, you would not have been able to pull off the throw-in, and would have had to try your luck with guessing who had the

**Deal 5**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

♠ J 3  
 ♥ A 9 6 5  
 ♦ J 10 8 7  
 ♣ Q 8 5

N  
W E  
S

♠ K 9 6 4  
 ♥ Q 7  
 ♦ K Q 6  
 ♣ K J 10 3

♠ 10  
 ♥ K J 8 3 2  
 ♦ A 5 4 2  
 ♣ 9 7 4

♠ A Q 8 7 5 2  
 ♥ 10 4  
 ♦ 9 3  
 ♣ A 6 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4♠ by South

Lead: ♦ J

South is to play 4♠. West leads the ♦ J, covered by the ♦ Q and ♦ A. East returns a ♦ to the ♦ K.

You still have two losers in the ♥ suit, so the question is which way you plan to finesse the ♣s. And of course the answer is that you don't plan to finesse them at all!

Pull trumps with the ♠ A, then ♠ K. Next ruff dummy's last ♦.

Now exit with a ♥. The defenders win this and take another ♥ trick, leaving this position.

They must now break the ♣ suit for you or give you a ruff-sluff. Of course you would ruff in dummy and discard a ♣ from the 3-card holding in your hand.

If West is the one who has to play a ♣ you need to insert the ♣ T or ♣ J from dummy.

In either case you will no longer have a ♣ loser.

**Deal 6**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

♠ —	♠ 10 6 4 3 2		
♥ J 9 8 3	♥ K 5 2		
♦ Q J 9 7 4	♦ K 8		
♣ Q 8 5 3	♣ K 10 2		
	N		
W	E		
	S		
	♠ Q J 9		
	♥ Q 10 7 6		
	♦ 10 5 2		
	♣ 9 6 4		
	♠ A K 8 7 5		
9	♥ A 4		
6 5	♦ A 6 3		
20	♣ A J 7		
West	North	East	South
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	6 ♠
6 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♦ Q			

North decides a limit raise is better than just jumping to game. South has heard enough and bids the slam.

South is to play 6 ♠. West leads the ♦ Q.

So you win the ♦ K and play a ♠ to your ♠ K. When West discards a ♦ your second thought is probably that you MUST guess the ♣ Q just to make twelve tricks.

Hopefully your third thought is that if you use an elimination play you won't have to guess.

Play your ♠ A, leaving East with the master ♠ Q. Then eliminate ♦ s by playing ♦ A and ruffing a ♦ in dummy.

Now eliminate ♥ s by playing ♥ A, ♥ K, and ruffing a ♥.

You are ready for the throw-in. Play a ♠ to East's ♠ Q.

East has just taken the defender's first trick. First and only. Because if he now plays a red card you will ruff in one hand and discard a losing ♣ from the other. And if he plays a ♣ you will no longer have a ♣ loser.

Here it took two ruffs, one in each hand.