

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2**♥ 8 5****♦ 6****♣ 10 7 5****♠ 8 3****♥ J 10 6 2****♦ K J 9 5 4 2****♣ 3****6
5 11
18****♠ 5****♥ 9 7 3****♦ A 8 7****♣ A K 9 8 6 4****♠ A 10 6
♥ A K Q 4
♦ Q 10 3
♣ Q J 2**

West North East South

3 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass Pass Pass

4 ♠ by NorthLead: **♣ A**

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the **♣ A**. Seeing your **♣ 3** he next played the **♦ A**. What will you play on this trick?

When you have made your choice

Normally with this holding you would play the **♦ 9** to encourage East to play a second **♦** through dummy's **♦ Q T**.

But this time you really want him to take his **♣ K**. So play the discouraging **♦ 2** and hope he gets the message to go back to **♣s**. If he does play the **♣ K** next it will win and he can then give you a **♣ ruff**.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 5**♥ K Q 8 5 3****♦ 9 6 2****♣ J 4****8
6 6
20****West**

♠ 6 4 2
♥ 9 6 4
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ K 7 3



♠ J 10 7 3
♥ J 7 2
♦ 10 7 5
♣ A 9 5

♠ A K Q**♥ A 10****♦ A J 4****♣ Q 10 8 6 2****North****East****South**
2 NT**Pass****3 NT****Pass****Pass****Pass****3 NT by South****Lead: ♥ 5**

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ 5, you put on the ♥ J, South won with the ♥ A. The second trick was ♦ A, ♦ 2, ♦ 3, ♦ 5. The third trick was ♦ J, ♦ 6, ♦ 8, ♦ 7. South then put the ♣ Q on the table.

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like South is trying to create an entry to dummy so he can cash the 2 ♦ winners? That's what he wants it to look like, hoping someone holds up their ♣ A.

But don't believe Declarer, believe your partner. On the first ♦ West played the ♦ 2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦ 6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And South must also have a third one, so he is up to some trickery with that ♣ Q.

So grab your ♣ A and return partner's ♥ suit.

Deal 3
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

16	♠ K 9 8 6 4
7	♦ A 6
17	♦ Q J 3
	♣ A K 9

W	N	E	S
♦ 9 7 4 2	♣ 7 6 5 2	♦ 8 6 2	♣ 7 6 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
6 ♠ by North			
Lead: ♠ 5			

this case an even number must be 4 which means that North has one more ♥. So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to East's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. The 2 ♥ bid was a transfer. The 5 NT bid meant to choose either 6 ♠ or 6 NT. North liked the suit. Partner led the ♠ 5, won by North's ♠ Q. North pulls one more trump with his ♠ A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥ A on which he plays the ♥ 3 and East plays the ♥ 9. Then he leads dummy's ♥ 6 which you win with the ♥ Q. On this trick North drops the ♥ J and East the ♥ 2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe North is now out of ♥s then you shoud not play your ♥ K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe North when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In

Deal 4West Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 10
♥ 9 2
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A K 10 6 3

12
13 2
13

	N		♠ 9 8 7 5 2
W		E	♥ 10 5
	S		♦ 9 7 4 3
			♣ Q 2

♠ K J 3
♥ K Q 7 6 4 3
♦ K 10
♣ J 9

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣ A, East played the ♣ 2 and South the ♣ 9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣ 2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣ Q and ♣ J. If East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If East started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣ Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣ Q, then leads a ♪ back to your ♪ A Q.