

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q J 10
♥ 10 9
♦ 7 4 3
♣ K 10 7 2

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ K 5 4
♦ K J 10 8 5
♣ Q



♠ A 9 2
♥ J 7 3
♦ A 9 2
♣ J 9 6 5

9
9 10
12

♠ 7 4
♥ A Q 8 6 2
♦ Q 6
♣ A 8 4 3

West North East South

Pass 3♥ Pass 1♥
Pass Pass Pass 4♥
Pass Pass Pass Pass

4♥ by South

Lead: ♠ K

Some pretty aggressive bidding gets you to a challenging game. South is to play 4♥. West leads the ♠ K, overtaken by East's ♠ A. East returns a ♠ to West's ♠T, and he then plays the ♠ Q.

Losers: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

With 2 tricks already gone you still have 4 losers. You could consider ruffing the 3 ♣ losers in dummy but that would just create a trump loser even when trumps are splitting 3-2. So it looks like you will have to establish the ♦ suit for discards. You could pull trumps and then play your ♦ Q, hoping the defenders will grab their ♦ A immediately. But unless they are real novices they will hold it up one round and you'll no longer be able to reach dummy.

The solution is to establish the ♦s before you use up dummy's ♥ K.

Ruff the third ♠, then play ♦ Q, (which they will duck), and another ♦, (which they will probably take). Win whatever they return, pull trumps ending in dummy, and enjoy your 3 ♦ winners.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 10 8 6
♥ 9 6 3
♦ Q 7 2
♣ J 9 2

8
6 10
16

West

North

East

South

Pass

2♦

Pass

2♥

Pass

2NT

Pass

3NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

3NT by South

Lead: ♠ 6

♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q 10 5 4

♦ 9 4

♣ 8 6 3



♠ 4 3 2

♥ A 8 2

♦ K J 5

♣ Q 10 7 4

♠ A 7 5

♥ J 7

♦ A 10 8 6 3

♣ A K 5

North's 3♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠ 6, you play dummy's ♠ 9 and East contributes the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 5

The math is easy - you need 4 ♥ tricks. And you should be able to manage that by driving out the ♥ A. But the defenders will probably hold up one or two rounds when you play on ♥s, so you must have an outside entry to dummy.

The ♠ Q J will provide that entry IF you make sure to win the first trick with your ♠ A as an unblocking move. If you don't do so then West will be able to keep you out of the dummy and away from those good ♥s.

But if you win the first trick with the ♠ A, then dummy's ♠ Q J will provide a guaranteed entry to the good ♥s.

Deal 3

West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ K 6 4
♦ 10 8 2
♣ Q 6 3

7
7 8
18

West
Pass
Pass
Pass
Pass
3 NT by South
Lead: ♠ 2

♠ K J 4
♥ Q J 10 5 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 8 2



♠ A 10 5
♥ 9 7
♦ A K 6 3
♣ A K 9 5

North
Pass
1 ♥
3 NT

♠ 8 6 3
♥ A 8 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ J 10 7 4

East
Pass
Pass
Pass

South
1 ♦
2 NT
Pass

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 2, you play dummy's ♠ 4 and East plays the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing just two more winners it looks straightforward to establish dummy's ♥ suit. Suppose you win the ♠T and play the ♥ 9. If the defenders win this trick you are home free. You win their ♠ return with your ♠ A, then continue ♥s to drive out their last stopper while you still have the ♠ K as a dummy entry.

This won't work against good defenders, who will hold up on the first ♥ trick and win the second. Then when they continue ♠s you won't have another ♥ to return to dummy, so while you can use the ♠ K as an entry to establish the ♥s you will never get back to use the good ones.

Instead you should win the first trick with your ♠ A. Now when you attack ♥s a defensive holdup won't hurt you because you have TWO ♠ entries, the ♠ J by a finesse and the ♠ K.

So the ♠ finesse is an odds-on play to get a second dummy entry.

Deal 4

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 6
♥ Q 10 7 2
♦ 9 4 3
♣ K Q 8

9
7 9
15

West

North

East

South

Pass

2 NT

Pass

3 ♦

Pass

4 ♦

Pass

5 ♦

Pass

Pass

Pass

5 ♦ by South

Lead: ♠ 10

♠ Q J 8 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ Q 10 8

♣ 9 4 3



♠ —

♥ K 8 4

♦ A K J 7 6 5 2

♣ A 6 5

♠ A K 7 5 4 3

♥ J 9 5

♦ —

♣ J 10 7 2

3 NT would have been a lot easier, but you didn't get there. South is to play 5 ♦. West leads the ♠T.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 3

The good news is that you only have one loser to get rid of. The bad news is that there doesn't seem to be a good place to put it.

Unlikely as it seems, your best candidate for establishment is dummy's ♠ 8. West is marked with 3 ♠s, and having led the ♠T there is a good chance that he also has the ♠ 9. If so you can ruff it out.

Cover the ♠T with dummy's ♠J, and when East plays one of his honors ruff in your hand. Play a trump to the ♦T, East showing out. Lead the ♠Q. East will be forced to play his other high honor, (if he

doesn't you would discard a loser), and you ruff again.

Back to dummy with the ♦Q and ruff the ♠ 2 with a high trump just to be safe. West drops the ♠ 9 on this trick.

Pull West's last trump and enter dummy with the ♥A and FINALLY discard a loser on the now established ♠ 8.

Here you needed ♠ T 9 x to be with West if you were to make the contract so you played for just that holding.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 5 3

♥ J 7 6 4

♦ K J 7 3 2

♣ 10 5

7
5 7
21

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by South

Lead: ♠ 5

♠ K 6 4

♥ A 9 3

♦ 8 6

♣ 9 8 6 4 3



♠ A Q J 10 9 7

♥ K 10 5

♦ A 5

♣ A K

North

Pass

2 NT

4 ♠

5 ♦

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

3 ♠

4 NT

6 ♠

South is to play 6 ♠. West leads the ♠ 5.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

First pull trumps with the ♠ A and ♠ Q, both defenders following. Next you must establish dummy's ♣ suit to get rid of one of your losers. If the suit splits 3-3 that will be easy since you have two dummy entries, one to get there to ruff the third ♣ and the other to get there to enjoy playing the winners. But ♣s will probably split 4-2 so the two entries won't be enough. Here's how to make the defenders help you establish the suit.

After pulling trumps, play the ♣ A K, then ♦ A. Next exit with a small ♦.

to see the position.

The defender who won the ♦ trick has a problem. If he plays another ♦ you will get a ruff-sluff, and if he plays a ♥ you will play for the ♥ Q and ♥ J to be in different hands. So he will probably play a ♣.

You ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy's ♠ K and ruff the ♣ 8, establishing the ♣ 9 while you still have the ♥ entry.

This was a combination of Suit Establishment and End-play. The lesson on Eliminations contains a lot more of this type of hand.