

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 8 2
♥ 5 3 2
♦ A 9
♣ 8 7 6 4

17
6 7
10

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

3 NT by North
Lead: ♥ Q

♠ K 4
♥ A 7 4
♦ K 10 7 4
♣ A Q J 5



♠ A 7 5 3
♥ K 6
♦ Q J 5 2
♣ 10 9 3

North

1 NT
2 ♦
3 NT

East

Pass
Pass
Pass

South

2 ♣
2 NT
Pass

With no 4-card Major suit you respond 2 ♦ to partner's Stayman bid. Partner now bids 2 NT. What do you say?

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With 17 points you naturally accept partner's invitation and bid 3 NT.

East's ♥ Q lead presents you with an immediate decision (or two) to make.

You need 4 additional winners and can only establish 3 of them in ♦s. So you will have to manufacture another one from the ♣ suit as well. If you assume the ♣ finesse will fail, (and you have probably noticed that most finesses DO fail on these pages), that means you will lose the lead twice.

So what do you do about that ♥ Q? Do you win or hold up?

You hold up, of course, to cut defensive communications when East has 5 ♥s and West has 3. East will probably play another ♥ to dummy's ♥ K.

If both the ♦ A and ♣ K are in East's hand then you won't make this contract. He will easily establish his ♥s and have an entry to get in and cash them. If the ♦ A is with East and the ♣ K is with West then it doesn't matter in which order you play the suits since you will not lose the lead in ♣s. But if the ♣ K is with East and the ♦ A is with West then it is vital that you play ♣s first.

But, if you finesse in ♣s first, East can win and establish the ♥ suit. But, when West wins the ♦ A, he will have no ♥ to return.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ 10 4
♦ 8 7 5 2
♣ Q 10 3

15
2 5
18

West

North

East

South

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

1 NT

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♥

Pass

6 ♥

ALL

Pass

6 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ 10

♠ J 5
♥ A 9 7 3
♦ K 6 4
♣ A K 6 2



♠ Q 6 2
♥ Q 6 5
♦ 10 9 3
♣ J 7 5 4

♠ A K 7 3
♥ K J 8 2
♦ A Q J
♣ 9 8

Did you consider bidding 6 NT? You are balanced, and the points are right. But with two 4-card Majors you should use Stayman, so you bid 2 ♣. Partner bids 2 ♥. Now what do say next?

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You might just go ahead and bid 6 ♥. Partner probably has at least one Ace for his 1 NT opening. The other choice is a Blackwood 4 NT, and while you don't like to use Blackwood when you have a worthless doubleton, this bid will at least keep you out of slam if partner has ZERO Aces. You bid 4 NT and partner replies 5 ♥. Next?

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you don't like to use Blackwood when you have a worthless doubleton, this bid will at least keep you out of slam if partner has ZERO Aces. You bid 4 NT and partner replies 5 ♥. Next?

He has two Aces so you bid 6 ♥ because you know there aren't enough points for seven.

The contract would be 6 ♥ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 6 ♥. East leads the ♠ T.

You toy with the idea of letting this ride to your ♠ J, then you put away your childish toys and play the ♠ A from dummy.

The two ♣ losers can be ruffed in dummy. A successful ♥ finesse could save you a loser in trumps. So, should you take the ♥ finesse now?

No, because if you play ♥ A, then the ♥ finesse LOSES, West might play a third ♥ and stop you from your two ruffs in dummy. A much better plan is to play the ♥ K, then ♥ A, and if the ♥ Q drops, well and good. This time she doesn't, but both West and East follow to both trump leads. Play the ♣ A K, the ♠ K, and the ♦ A K Q.

If somebody ruffs any of these it will be with the master trump and you won't care. But if they don't ruff yet, you just start cross-ruffing ♣s and ♠s and let them ruff in whenever they like.

But that is only correct as far as that suit is concerned. When you look at the entire hand you may find that by taking your two high trumps and leaving the master Queen out you can make all four of your small ones separately.

This is much more obvious play when you are missing 5 trumps including the Queen AND Jack because you don't have any choice then.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ 8
♦ 9 3
♣ A J 8 7

♠ A 7 5
♥ K 9 6 3
♦ A K 8
♣ Q 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ 10 8 2
♥ A 5 2
♦ Q J 10 6 4
♣ 10 9

16
11 7
6

♠ 4
♥ Q J 10 7 4
♦ 7 5 2
♣ K 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
2 ♠	2 NT	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass			Pass
3 ♥ by North			
Lead: ♠ 10			

plays another ♠ which you ruff.

Continue with two more rounds of trumps. Then play to a ♣ honor. Unless the ♣s split 3-3 you will lose two tricks in the suit but your fourth ♣ can be ruffed with dummy's last trump. Of course you also have the ♦ loser which you couldn't avoid.

The purpose of the hand is to point out the advantages of using lebensohl convention when the opponents interfere. It got you to a makeable 3 ♥ contract.

And just look at the EW hands. They can easily make 3 ♠.

When the opponents overcall your 1 NT opener a 2 NT bid by partner is lebensohl. You have been instructed to make a relay bid of 3 ♣, and you do so. Partner now bids 3 ♥. What do you say?

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The 3 ♥ bid is a sign-off, ala the lebensohl methods. So you pass.

North would be playing the hand in 3 ♥.

ROTATE to make South is the Declarer.

South plays 3 ♥. West leads the ♠T. You win the first trick with dummy's ♠A.

Make a Plan then

The bidding may have been tough but there is absolutely nothing to the play of this hand. You just have to pull trumps so none of your winners get ruffed. So play a ♥ at trick 2. West wins and

Deal 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 3
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ 10 8 5 4 3
♣ 8 6

♠ K J 10 8 4
♥ A 7 6 2
♦ K
♣ 7 4 3



♠ A Q 5 2
♥ Q 3
♦ J 9 6
♣ Q J 10 9

11
1 12
16

♠ 9 7
♥ K 5 4
♦ A Q 7 2
♣ A K 5 2

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by South
Lead: ♥ J

Partner bids Stayman; with no 4-card Major you respond 2 ♦. Partner now bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner bids Stayman; with no 4-card Major you respond 2 ♦. Partner now bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner's bidding is crystal clear. He has described a hand with at least 11 points, which has 4 ♥s and 5 ♠s.

The decision is yours, and with no 8-card Major suit fit you decide on 3 NT.

On West's ♥ J opening lead East plays the ♥ Q.

Winner List: ♠ = 0 : ♥ = 2 : ♦ = 3 : ♣ = 2 :: Total = 7

You must establish some ♠ tricks which means you will be finessing through West. Since West can get the lead at most once in ♠s you should not hold up in ♥s. The problem with a hold up is that East may pocket one ♥ trick and then switch to ♣s, a suit in which you are no better off.

Win the ♥ K and play your ♠ 9, letting it ride. Suppose it holds the trick. Continue with another ♠, taken by East's ♠ Q.

East cannot hurt you. If he has a ♥ to play, then ♥s will have broken no worse than 4-2 and you will lose two ♥s and two ♠s.

If East plays any other suit you have a double stopper and can establish ♠ tricks before they can set up a winner of their own.

to see what might have happened if you held up.

East could play a ♣, knocking out one of your ♣ A K. When East won his first ♠ he would establish the ♣s, and when he took the second ♠ he could cash 2 ♣ tricks.

Deal 5

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7 3
♥ 10
♦ 10 8 6 4 3
♣ J 10 9 5

16
3 10
11

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	2 ♥	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♥ Q			

♠ J 6 5
♥ 7 6 4
♦ A K J
♣ A K 6 3



♠ A 10 9 8
♥ A K 2
♦ 9 5
♣ 8 7 4 2

♠ K 4 2
♥ Q J 9 8 5 3
♦ Q 7 2
♣ Q

Partner's 2 NT is lebensohl, requesting that you bid 3 ♣. You obey and partner now bids 3 ♥. What do you say?

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The cue-bid is Stayman, asking if you have 4 ♠s. However, since it was a DELAYED cue-bid it also shows stopper(s) in the opponent's overcalled suit. Since you do not have 4 ♠s you go ahead and bid 3 NT.

East naturally attacks in his suit, leading the ♥ Q.

There are several possibilities for extra winners. The ♦ Q might drop - or the finesse might work, providing one winner. The ♣s might split 3-2, giving you one extra winner. The ♠ honors might be split (or East might hold both) so the double finesse would give you two winners. Since your minor suit hopes require that BOTH of them work, your best bet is the double ♠ finesse.

You do not need to hold up on the ♥ because you will be finessing twice into West, and he cannot possibly have more than two ♥s, probably only one. Come to your hand with a ♣, play the ♠ J and let it ride. West wins the ♠ Q and plays another ♣. Win this one and finesse the ♠ again. When this finesse works you can return to your hand with a ♦ and repeat the finesse.

Even if West held both honors you would STILL have established one ♠ winner and would have the possibility of a ♦ finesse.