

**Deal 1**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 10 8

♥ J 10 5 3

♦ K 9 2

♣ J 10 3

7  
7 7  
19

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 5

♠ 7 4 3

♥ 9 7 6

♦ 8 5

♣ A K 6 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 6

♥ A K 2

♦ A Q 7 3

♣ Q 8 7 5

North

1 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♦

3 NT

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 5.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=5 Total = 9

Wow! The winners add up to 9 already. We have assumed that ♣s will split no worse than 3-1, which is exactly how they do split. Is there any other pitfall you might need to worry about?

Just one minor problem. The ♣s will block if you are not careful! So you win the ♠ A, then play dummy's ♣ Q. Next you play dummy's ♣ 8 to your ♣ K. Then your ♣ A on which you put dummy's ♣ 7. Aha! Now when you play your ♣ 6 you will be able to keep the lead.

As they are, though, the contract is cold. But only if you are a good bridge player!

**Deal 2**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 7 5 2

♥ K 4

♦ K 9 7

♣ Q 8 5

 22  
 8 3  
 7

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 5

♠ A Q 9

♥ A 7 5 3

♦ A J 6 4

♣ A K

♠ K J 4

♥ Q 6

♦ 8 5 3

♣ J 10 6 3 2

North

2 ♣

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

♠ 6 3

♥ J 10 9 8 2

♦ Q 10 2

♣ 9 7 4

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ 5.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing two winners you will naturally consider your 5-card ♣ suit. After unblocking the ♣ A K you will need two entries to your hand; one to lead the ♣ J and drive out the ♣ Q, then a second to enjoy your good ♣s.

The ♠ suit will provide one entry easily, but should you depend on the ♥ Q for the second entry?

No, for two reasons. Firstly the ♥ Q only gives you a 50% chance of being an entry. But more importantly, you already have your two sure entries in ♠s. As long as you take the first trick with dummy's ♠ A both your ♠ K and ♠ J can be entries.

Win the ♠ A. Play off dummy's ♣ A K. Lead the ♠ 9 to your ♠ J. Play your ♣ J (and another one if necessary) to establish the ♣ suit. Win whatever red card they play next with dummy's Ace. Play the ♠ Q to your ♠ K and cash your established ♣(s). Dummy's other red Ace will be your ninth trick.

You'd have to be very careless to miss this one.

**Deal 3**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

21  
6 7  
6

West

Pass  
Pass  
3 NT by North

Lead: ♣ 5

♠ A 6 4 3

♥ A J 4

♦ A J

♣ A K 8 3



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

North

2 NT  
Pass

East

Pass  
Pass

South

Pass  
3 NT

♠ Q 8 5

♥ K 7 2

♦ 8 6 4

♣ Q 10 7 5

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♣ 5. You play low from dummy and West plays the ♣ 6.

Winners: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 1 ♦ = 4? ♣ = 3  
Total = 9

Although you have 4 ♦ winners, getting to the last couple might not be so easy. You can make 3 ♦ tricks simply by winning your ♦ A, then overtaking your ♦ J with dummy's ♦ Q. But you need that fourth ♦ winner. Can you get it?

Sure you can, by creating an entry in ♣. It is likely from the opening lead, (and West's play of a small card), that East has led from ♣ Q T 7 5. If you win the first trick cheaply then you will still make your ♣ A K for three ♣ tricks in all.

So don't win cheaply, win the first trick with the ♣ A. Then unblock your ♦ A J. Next play ♣ K. (on which West discards), and a small ♣ toward dummy's ♣ J 9. You are sure to have a ♣ entry to dummy's ♦s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

You probably would have played the hand the same way you just did, unblock ♦s, then play ♣ A K and a low ♣ toward the ♣ J 9 trying to get a ♣ entry to dummy.

It is only because the ♣ opening lead gives you the chance for a Cheap-Trick that you are tempted to go wrong.

**Deal 4**

North Deals

None Vul

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

5  
 7 8  
 20

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ Q

♠ 8 3

♥ J 7 4

♦ A 6 4 2

♣ 7 6 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 6

♥ K 5 2

♦ K Q J 5

♣ A Q J 4

North

Pass

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ Q. East plays the ♠ K, then the ♠ 2 when you hold up.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=0 ♦=4 ♣=1 Total = 6

You are going to have to be pretty lucky to make this contract. You cannot touch the ♥ suit because a defender would take the ♥ A and it would start raining ♠s.

So you will have to get 3 extra ♣ winners, which means the ♣ finesse absolutely MUST work.

In addition to lucky, you are going to have to be pretty good, too. You will surely have to finesse the ♣s at least twice; that means you need two dummy entries. Can you find them?

Maybe in ♦s. Play the ♦ K, then ♦ Q, watching the defender's cards carefully. When both follow twice you know there is only a single ♦ left out, so you play the ♦ J to dummy's ♦ A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦ 5 to dummy's ♦ 6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Then your chance of success goes way down. You would have to find East with the doubleton ♣ K.