

Deal 1

North Deals	♠ A K J
None Vul	♥ A Q 3
	♦ A 4 3
	♣ K 10 4 2
♠ 10 9 6 3	♠ Q 8 2
♥ 10 8 5 2	♥ J 6 4
♦ Q 10 9	♦ J 7 5
♣ J 6	♣ 9 8 7 3
	♠ 7 5 4
	♥ K 9 7
	♦ K 8 6 2
	♣ A Q 5



West	North	East	South
	2 NT	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 NT by North			
Lead: ♣ 9			

Partner's 4 NT bid is not Blackwood, it is the Quantitative 4 NT. He is unsure whether to bid 6 NT or not, so is inviting you to do so.

With 20 points you are supposed to pass. With 21 points you are supposed to bid 6 NT. The evaluations probably aren't that accurate, but at least you have an excuse to bid 6 NT.

West plays the ♣ J which you take with your ♣ K.

There are two places you might find your twelfth winner. You can finesse West for the ♠ Q; this is a 50% chance. Or, the ♦ s might split 3-3; this is about a 40% chance.

If you try the ♠ finesse and it fails you will go down even if the ♦ s are splitting 3-3.

If you play ♦ A, ♦ K then another ♦, a 4-2 ♦ split will defeat you even if the ♠ Q was with West.

Two chances are always better than one. The way to take both chances is to duck a ♦ at trick 2. Win whatever the defenders play next and then test the ♦ s. If they do split your last ♦ will be trick #12. But if they don't split you can still try the ♠ finesse.

to see.

Deal 2
 East Deals
 None Vul
 ♠ Q 10 5 4
 ♥ A 8 4 2
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ 10 7

♠ K 8 6 2
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ A K 7
 ♣ A K 6 3

6
 17 9
 8
 ♠ J 7 3
 ♥ K J 9
 ♦ Q J 10 4
 ♣ 8 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

3 NT by East
 Lead: ♦ Q

N
 W E
 S
 ♠ A 9
 ♥ Q 10 6 3
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ Q J 9 4

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2 ♣. Partner duly replies 2 ♣. What do you say now?

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2 ♣. Partner duly replies 2 ♣. What do you say now?

You don't have a 4-4 ♥ fit, so you invite the notrump game by bidding 2 NT. Partner raises to 3 NT.

The contract would be 3 NT played by East.

To make West the declarer ROTATE.

West plays 3 NT and North leads the ♦ Q. Should you win or hold up?

A pretty good argument against holding up could be that they might switch to ♠s. However, say you do in fact hold up and that North does in fact continue ♦s with South following suit.

Don't worry any more about the ♦s since there is nothing more you can do. Instead, worry about where that one more winner is going to come from. The answer will have to be: *from the ♥ suit*.

You might be tempted to take your 4 ♣ tricks right away, but avoid the temptation. The ♣ suit is your convenient transportation back and forth between hands.

You will have to lose at least 2 ♥ tricks in order to set up 1 winner, and by the time you do that the defenders will have established at least 1 more ♦ trick. What that means is that you cannot afford 3 ♥ losers. So how will you play the ♥s?

You should play North for the ♥ J plus one of the big ones. This is a better chance than playing him for both the ♥ A K. So play a ♥ toward dummy and insert the ♥ T when North plays low. South wins with the ♥ A and clears the ♦s. Play another ♥ toward dummy's ♥ Q. North can take his ♥ K and cash his ♦ winner but dummy's ♥ Q will be your ninth trick.

North could hold both the ♥ A and ♥ K, in which case leading toward dummy's ♥ Q would be the winning play.

North could hold EITHER ♥ A J x OR ♥ K J x in which case finessing dummy's ♥ J would be the winning play. This is the more likely distribution of the two.

Deal 3

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 4 2**♥ 8 3****♦ 9 7 4****♣ J 10 7 4 3****♠ 8 7 3****♥ A 6****♦ J 8 5 2****♣ A Q 6 2****♠ K Q J 10****♥ K J 9 7 5 4****♦ A****♣ 9 5****♠ A 9 5****♥ Q 10 2****♦ K Q 10 6 3****♣ K 8****West****North****East****South****11
1 14
14****1 ♥****1 NT****Pass****3 NT****Pass****Pass****Pass****3 NT by South****Lead: ♥ 8**

the ♦ A but you still have the ♠ A and ♥ Q as stoppers.

to see.

Don't give him the chance.

You should not make a takeout double with three cards in their suit. A 2♦ overcall would be a reasonable choice. But with 15 points, balanced, and a stopper in ♥s a 1 NT overcall is probably better.

Partner bids 3 NT.

As expected, West leads his partner's ♥ suit.

You need at least 4♦ winners.

If you play low from dummy on the ♥ lead East can win the ♥ K but this will give you an extra ♥ stopper. He could drive out dummy's ♥ A at trick 2, but you would then establish ♦s and make an overtrick!

But who said East would play another ♥ after winning the ♥ K? What if he wins the ♥ K and switches to ♠s? They might then win 3 ♠ tricks to go with their ♥ K and ♦ A.

Instead you should grab the first trick with dummy's ♥ A and start playing ♦s. East will take

Deal 4
 East Deals
 None Vul
 ♠ 10 2
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ 10 8 5 4
 ♣ Q 10 6 2

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

<i>West</i> 4 ♥ 4 ♥ by West Lead: ♠ 10	<i>North</i> Pass	<i>East</i> 1 NT	<i>South</i> 2 ♠ Pass
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North out of his ♥ K.

for the full layout.

That was true, so instead you were able to discard it on a loser!

You would really like to have a transfer bid in this situation, to make East bid ♥s.

But you don't have one, so you just bid 4 ♥ yourself.

You play low in dummy and North holds the trick. He continues the suit and South takes the ♠ Q and then plays the ♠ A.

You've already lost the 2 ♠s. If North has the ♥ K you might avoid a loser there. You don't have a winner on which to discard the ♣ loser.

If South has the ♥ K it will have to be a singleton to help you, so it is more logical to play North for the ♥ K. But if North does have the ♥ K it will do you no good to ruff South's ♠ A, North will over-ruff and you would still have that ♣ loser.

So do it this way instead. Discard the ♣ loser on South's ♠ A! Another ♠ from South won't hurt you since dummy would be able to over-ruff North. Whatever South plays you can win, then finesse