

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 10 4 2
♥ 9 8 5
♦ 10 9 7
♣ A 4

14
9 4
13

West

1 ♠

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ K

♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2



♠ A J 5
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 8
♣ 10 9 8 5 3

North

3 ♣

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♣

3 NT

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ K, East played the ♠ 7 and South the ♠ 5.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You can see the ♠ 6, ♠ 5, ♠ 4, ♠ 3 and ♠ 2. So the ♠ 7 is East's lowest ♠, he is doing his best to discourage you from leading the suit again.

South held up with ♠ A J x, hoping you would play the suit again and give him two tricks.

If you play the ♦ T East will win the ♦ A and return a ♠, allowing you to drive out South's ♠ A while you still have the ♣ A for an entry.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

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

♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2



	♠ A 9 8		
	♥ K Q		
	♦ Q J 8		
	♣ 10 9 8 5 3		
14			
9 5			
12			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	3 ♣	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 NT
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ K			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ K, East played the ♠ 7 and South the ♠ 8.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You cannot see the ♠ 5. The most likely reason is that East has it, and his ♠ 7 is an encouraging signal. The only reason he would encourage you is if he held either the ♠ A or ♠ J.

Together, you two continue to play ♠s to drive out South's ♠ A. When you get the lead with your ♣ A you will cash your ♠ winners and East will still have the ♦ A for some icing on the cake.

There IS another possibility if South is a better than average Declarer. East just might hold ♠ 9 7, giving South ♠ A J 8 5. South played the ♠ 8 as a falsecard to tempt you into playing the suit again. This isn't too likely, but if it happens just congratulate South for the fine play.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10 7 2

♥ K J 8 3

♦ Q 8 6

♣ J 4

♠ 5 4

♥ 6 4

♦ J 7 3

♣ A K Q 6 5 3



♠ K 8 6 3

♥ Q 10

♦ 10 9 5 4 2

♣ 8 2

♠ Q J 9

♥ A 9 7 5 2

♦ A K

♣ 10 9 7

11
10 5
14

West

North

East

South

2 ♣

3 ♣

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♥

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A, dummy played the ♣ 4 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

West will play the ♣ Q on which you will play the ♣ 2.

West now knows you started with a doubleton, and more importantly, he also knows you want him to play a third ♣.

When he next plays the ♣ K dummy will ruff, but whatever card he ruffs with you will have established a trump trick. When you later win your ♠ K that will be down 1.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 3
♥ J 8 4 3
♦ K J 9 5 2
♣ 8 2

5
5 8
22

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♦ 5

♠ J 8 4

♥ 7 6 2

♦ 8 4

♣ K J 9 6 5



♠ A K 5

♥ A K Q 5

♦ A 10 6

♣ Q 10 3

North

2 ♦

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

2 NT

Pass

♠ Q 10 9 6 2

♥ 10 9

♦ Q 7 3

♣ A 7 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♦ 5, East wins the ♦ Q and returns the ♦ 7. South holds up his ♦ A until the third round. He then plays the ♣ Q and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You assume (hope) that East holds the ♣ A. If he does then he will need help from you to decide which trick he should win. You play the ♣ 8 first, and the ♣ 2 next to show an even number.

If East is paying attention he will know to win the THIRD ♣. This will kill dummy's ♣ suit, and with it South's chance of making 9 tricks.

Deal 5

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A K 10 5

14
8 8
10

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

♠ A

♥ K 10 8 2

♦ A Q 7 3

♣ J 8 6 2



♠ K 9 3

♥ A 7 6 5 4

♦ J 8

♣ Q 7 4

♠ Q 10 8 4

♥ Q J 9

♦ K 9 5 2

♣ 9 3

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A, dummy played the ♣ 2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you signal with the ♣ 9 West will continue with the ♣ K and another which you will have to ruff. You will give up your NATURAL trump trick by doing so. Worse, you will allow North's ♣ J to be established as a winner that South can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and South will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦ K, return the ♣ 9 back to West's ♣ K, and still have your trump trick for later.