

Deal 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 5 4
♥ K J 10 3
♦ 9 7 4
♣ 6 2

21
4 6
9

♠ —
♥ A 5 2
♦ A K 6
♣ A K Q J 7 5 4

♠ J 8 6 2
♥ Q 9 8
♦ Q J 10 2
♣ 10 3

West North East South
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 NT
Pass 6 ♠ Pass Pass
Pass
6 ♠ by North
Lead: ♦ Q

but the chances are very slim.

You can play a low ♣ to dummy's ♣ 8. Assuming a defender takes the ♣ T you can win his return and enter dummy with the ♣ 9. This play is guaranteed to give you the entry and is the one you should choose.

When you are missing 4 cards the probability of a 3-1 split is about 50%.

But the singleton can be any one of four cards - in this case it can be the ♣ T, ♣ 6, ♣ 3 or ♣ 2. So the chance of one of the opponents holding specifically the singleton ♣ T is only one-fourth of 50%, about 12.5%.

North is to play 6 ♣. East leads the ♦ Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 3

Partner's hand didn't turn out to be what you hoped for, you had in mind maybe the ♥ K and ♦ Q.

But this is what you got. First, be thankful East led a ♦ rather than a ♥. Second, see if you can find a way to fight yourself over to dummy and those three beautiful ♣s.

You have two possibilities for a ♣ entry, but you can only try one of them as you will see.

You can play a high ♣ and hope somebody plays the singleton ♣ T. Then your ♣ 9 would be an entry. If this works you would probably make all 13 tricks,

Deal 2

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 9
♥ Q 10 4
♦ 6 5
♣ K Q J 8 7 5 3

8
8 15
9

♠ Q 10 6 5 2
♥ 6 5 2
♦ A Q 7
♣ 9 4

N **♠ 8 3**
W **♥ A K J 9 8 7**
S **♦ K 10 4 3**
E **♣ A**

♠ A K J 7 4
♥ 3
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ 10 6 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
4 ♥ by East			
Lead: ♠ A			

need. Do you see a way around this?

Do NOT ruff the second ♠ in dummy, just discard a ♦. If South plays a third ♠ you will ruff in your hand, then unblock the ♣ A, then pull trumps in 3 rounds ending in dummy. And run all those ♣ tricks. If South plays a trump or a ♣ the result will be the same. The defense can get one ♦ trick if they take it right now, but you still make your contract.

East is to play 4 ♥. South leads the ♠ A, then ♠ K.

Losers: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 0 ♦ = 3? ♣ = 0
Total = 4?

This is the kind of hand that can get really messy if you aren't careful. You could ruff the ♠, then try to ruff some ♦s, but the defense can prevent you by leading trumps when you give up the ♦ tricks.

All in all a much better plan is to use dummy's ♣ suit after you unblock the Ace. The only flaw with that idea is that when you ruff the ♠, unblock the ♣ A, then play two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, there will still be a trump left out. And the defender might ruff a ♣ before you can take the discards you

Deal 3

South Deals	♠ Q 7 4
None Vul	♥ J 5 3
	♦ 6 5 4 2
	♣ Q 10 7
♠ 10 6 5 3	♠ K J 9
♥ Q 7 4	♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ 10 8	♦ K 9 3
♣ J 9 5 3	♣ A 8 4
5 3 11 21	♠ A 8 2 ♥ A K 6 ♦ A Q J 7 ♣ K 6 2

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

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♣ 3, East plays the ♣ A.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 6

You have the possibility of one additional ♠ winner if West holds the ♠ K. However, ♦s is your best suit and if East holds the ♦ K you could gain all three winners that you need from that suit. But of course you need perhaps 2 dummy entries. Do you have them?

Well, you probably do. West's small ♣ lead probably indicates an honor, and with East playing the ♣ A you can be pretty sure that West holds the ♣ J. So by playing your ♣ K underneath the ♣ A you set up a second entry to dummy via the ♣ finesse.

Assume East now plays a ♥. Take your ♥ A and play a ♣ to dummy's ♣ T. Lead a ♦ and finesse the ♦ J, which holds. Play another ♣ to dummy and finesse another ♦. Now play your ♦ A and smile when the ♦ K drops and your fourth ♦ becomes a winner.

By unblocking the ♣ K you were still pretty confident that you would get the two tricks, but the bonus was in the extra dummy entry your unblock created.

Deal 4

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



5	♠ A 6 4
14 12	♥ 9 7 4 2
9	♦ Q 10 6
	♣ K 7 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by West			
Lead: ♦ 5			

West is to play 3 NT. North leads the ♦ 5, South plays the ♦ Q.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=3 ♦=1 ♣=1 Total = 5

You must take the ♦ K right now or you might lose the first 5 tricks.

It's a shame about that solid ♠ suit, but if you try to win even a single ♠ they will grab the ♠ A and win enough ♦ tricks to set the contract.

So you are going to have to win a lot of ♣ tricks, and do so without losing the lead. You need dummy entries, and they must be in ♥s.

play the ♣ J, again letting it ride when South plays low. Play one more ♣ to your ♣ A, picking up South's ♣ K this time.

The ♣ suit is ready to run, so play your ♥ K to dummy's ♥ A and take your ♣ winners. You took 9 tricks in all, the ♦ K, the ♥ A Q and all 6 ♣s.

Since it gave you all 6 ♣ tricks the sacrifice was well worth it.