

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 3
♥ 9 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ A J 7 3

14
11 7
8

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ A K J 8 6 2

♥ K 7 4

♦ 2

♣ K 6 5



♠ Q 4

♥ A 6

♦ 9 8 6 5 3

♣ Q 8 4 2

♠ 7 5

♥ Q J 10 8 5 3

♦ K J 7

♣ 10 9

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

An easy one. You bid 1 ♠. Partner responds 1 NT.

What is your next bid?

You're going to rebid your 6-card ♠ suit, but how high? The usual guideline is to bid 2 ♠ with 13-15 points, but jump to 3 ♠ with 16-18 points. You come in just over the line so you bid 3 ♠. Partner puts it in game.

North plays 4 ♠. East leads the ♥ Q, West playing ♥ 9.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 2 : Total = 4

You must eliminate one loser and the easiest one will be the ♥ which you can ruff in dummy. However, West's ♥ 9 looks a little ominous, particularly since East apparently has some length in the suit. Presumably you played the ♥ A on the first trick. Next lead the ♥ 6 from dummy, hoping West can't (or doesn't) ruff. He plays the

♥ 2. Win the ♥ K and play your ♥ 4, ruffing with dummy's ♠ Q. West is out of ♥s, but can't over-ruff. Now pull trumps and set up one ♣ trick. You lose 2 ♣s and a ♦, just as expected.

Deal 2

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 5
♥ 8 4
♦ A K Q J 5 4
♣ Q 10 5

14
12 1
13

West

1 ♦

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♦ A

♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ A K 6 3
♦ 7 3
♣ A K 6



♠ A K Q J
♥ Q 7 2
♦ 10 9 6
♣ J 7 4

North

Dbl

2 ♥

4 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♦

2 ♠

Pass

♠ 10 6 2
♥ J 10 9 5
♦ 8 2
♣ 9 8 3 2

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

When responding to a takeout double use these guidelines:
0-8 points: bid a suit cheaply
9-11 points: bid a suit with a jump
12 or more points: cue-bid the opponent's suit

With 13 points you cue-bid 2 ♦. Partner says 2 ♥.

You are forced to game, now you must find a suit. Partner suggested ♥s, you suggest ♠s. Partner agrees ♠s and bids the game.

South plays 4 ♠. West leads ♦ A, ♦ K, ♦ Q. East plays ♦ 8 then ♦ 2.

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

If you could ruff that ♦ then one of your ♦ losers would be eliminated - if East didn't over-ruff. But you know that East is going to over-ruff. So don't ruff it, discard dummy's ♣ 6 instead. Later you can ruff your ♣ loser in dummy.

Deal 3

West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 9 8
♥ A 5
♦ Q 10 6 2
♣ Q 4 3

13
11 4
12

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

3 NT by North
Lead: ♥ 2

♠ K 7 5 3
♥ Q 8 6 4
♦ A K 7
♣ J 2



♠ A 6 2
♥ J 10 3
♦ 8 5 4
♣ A K 8 5

♠ 10 4
♥ K 9 7 2
♦ J 9 3
♣ 10 9 7 6

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You have 13 points so you will definitely open the bidding. You don't open with a 4-card Major and you don't open with a 2-card ♣ suit. So this is the one distribution where you open a 3-card ♦ suit. Partner responds 2 ♣ and it is your bid.

Be very careful! You are tempted to now bid 2 ♥ or 2 ♠. Don't give in to the temptation. That would be a REVERSE - bidding a second, higher-ranking suit at the 2-level. You should have at least 16 points to reverse. Besides, if you trust partner you don't need to bid either of those suits anyway. If he had a 4-card Major he probably would have shown it on his first bid. No, your next bid is clearly 2 NT. Partner raises to 3 NT and you pass.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♥ 2, West wins the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 5. East takes the ♥ K and plays the ♥ 7.

East leads the ♥ 2, West wins the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 5. East takes the ♥ K and plays the ♥ 7.

Winner count: ♠ 2 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 2 : Total = 8

You are glad the defense started with ♥s, that was a suit you would have had to play yourself. You need one more winner and your first thought may be that the ♠s are going to have to split 3-3. However, that happens only about 40% of the time so you keep looking. There is one more card that might be valuable, the ♣ J. If West holds the ♣ Q then you can make a trick out of the ♣ J.

You are already in dummy with the ♥ J so you lead a small ♣. If West plays low you will play the ♣ J which will hold the trick and become your 9th winner. If West plays his ♣ Q you will have the ♣ J for your 9th winner later.

And if West doesn't have the ♣ Q at all? then you STILL have the possibility of a 3-3 ♠ split.

Deal 4

West Deals

None Vul

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

7
9 9
15

♠ A 9 6 5 4 3
♥ 8 2
♦ K J 8
♣ A K

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♥ A			

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You open 1 ♠. West overcalls 2 ♥ and partner bids 4 ♠.

South plays 4 ♠. West leads ♥ A, ♥ K, ♥ Q.

Losers: ♠ 1 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 0 : Total = 4

You have already lost the 2 ♥s and you will definitely lose the ♦. So you cannot lose a ♠ as well. When you have 11 cards in a suit missing the King, the recommended play is to play for the drop. But the recommended play shouldn't be used on this hand because you know that East has the ♠ K. How do you know this? Because West has turned up with 10 points in ♥s, (the A K Q and a fifth one). If he held the ♠ K as well he would have had 13 points and a good suit and would have opened he bidding. But he didn't open, so he doesn't have the ♠ K.

Ruff the ♥. Play the ♦ 8 to dummy's ♦T. If East takes the ♦A win his return and enter dummy

with the ♦Q. When in dummy lead the ♠Q and finesse East out of his ♠K.