

**Deal 1**South Deals  
None Vul

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

**10**  
**9 8**  
**13**

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South  
Lead: ♣ 4

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

You open 1 ♥, partner responds 3 ♥.

What is your next bid?

Partner's 3 ♥ response shows 11-12 points with good trumps.

With your 14 points you decide to bid the game.

South plays 4 ♥. West leads the ♣ 4, East plays the ♣ K.

Losers: ♠ 3 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 1 : Total = 6

There is no hope of extra winners except the ♦ suit. You are wide open in ♠s, so you have to hope that West holds the ♦ K. But that won't be enough by itself, in case he has ♦ K x x x you also have to have three entries to your hand. Two of them will be the ♥ A and ♥ Q and the third entry must be the ♣ A.

So you win the first trick with the ♣ A and immediately take your first ♦ finesse. It wins, so you return to your hand with a ♥ to the ♥ Q and take another ♦ finesse. Back to your hand with the ♥ A (pulling the last trumps) and take a third ♦ finesse. Finally on the ♦ A you can discard either your ♣ loser or a ♠. You will have to give up three tricks at the end.

Any other plan that was based on West holding the ♦ K would work ALMOST 50% of the time but would fail when West had three protectors for the ♦ K.

**Deal 2**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 10 8

♥ 9 4

♦ A 6 3 2

♣ 10 9 6

15  
7 7  
11
 ♠ 9 6 5  
 ♥ K 7  
 ♦ 10 9 8 5  
 ♣ K J 8 2

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ Q

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

You have 11 (perhaps 12) points and four trumps. Just right for a limit raise.

So you bid 3 ♥ and partner goes to game.

South would play 4 ♥.

North plays 4 ♥. East leads the ♠ Q.

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

You know you can't get rid of the ♦ loser, and it's hard to imagine a way that would let you get rid of the ♣ loser. The ♥ loser depends on the finesse. So you should try to find somewhere to put the ♠ loser.

First you win the ♠ A. You know that you will eventually take the ♥ finesse, so should you take it now? Visualize the likely defense actions if you do. Say West wins the ♥ K. He will surely play another ♠, knocking out dummy's ♠ K. Whenever

you try to set up ♦s the defense will take their ♠ trick and you will eventually go down.

What happened is that you gave the defense a tempo and let them control the timing of the play. You should not have rushed into the ♥ finesse. Instead suppose that you win the first trick with dummy's ♠ K and immediately play the ♦ Q. The defense can take their ♦ A when they want to and push another ♠, but now the timing is on your side. You can discard a ♠ from dummy on your good ♦ in time.

Set up the ♦ winner before you take the ♥ finesse and you will always be able to dump the ♠ loser no matter who has the ♥ K.

**Deal 3**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

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

12  
 7 6  
 15

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

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

♠ A J 9 3  
 ♥ K 8 2  
 ♦ A 8  
 ♣ Q J 5 3

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

Pass  
 3 NT by South  
 Lead: ♦ 2

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

With 15 points and a balanced hand of course you open 1 NT.

Partner's response is 2 ♣. What do you bid?

Partner's 2 ♣ bid is Stayman asking you to name a 4-card Major.

You bid 2 ♠, but that must not have been the Major he wanted so he bids 3 NT.

South plays 3 NT. West leads the ♦ 2. East plays ♦ Q. You hold up on this trick and East returns the ♦ 3.

You hold up on this trick and East returns the ♦ 3.

Winners: ♠ 1 : ♥ 4 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 0 : Total = 6

You need to get three more winners and you have two very clear possibilities.

If East holds the ♠ K you can finesse him out of it and win an additional 3 tricks in the suit. The problem with this approach is that half the time West will hold the ♠ K and you will go down.

Or you can drive out the ♣ A and definitely set up an additional 3 tricks in that suit. The problem with this approach is that if the defender's ♦s split 5-3 they will be able to win 4 ♦s and the ♣ A.

If you pay attention to the opening lead this becomes a simple decision. West led the ♦ 2. Assuming that was fourth down then he must have led from a 4-card suit. So it looks like the ♦s must be splitting 4-4 and it is safe for you to establish ♣s. So you drive out the ♣ A. The defenders take their other 2 ♦s but you make the game losing only 3 ♦s and the ♣ A.

West's lead of the ♦ 2 should have made you pretty sure that he had led from a 4-card suit. If the ♦ 2 is fourth down, there cannot be a fifth down. Additionally, East's return of the ♦ 3 confirmed that conclusion. If East had started with only 3 ♦s, (say ♦ Q 6 3) his correct return at trick 2 would have been his next highest, the ♦ 6. With 4 cards in the suit his correct return is his original fourth down.

**Deal 4**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ J 5 2</b> <b>♥ 10 9 3</b> <b>♦ J 10 9 4</b> <b>♣ J 8 2</b>  <b>6</b> <b>3 12</b> <b>19</b>	<b>♠ 8 6 3</b> <b>♥ Q 7 4</b> <b>♦ A 8 6 2</b> <b>♣ 9 5 4</b>  <b>♠ A K Q 10 9 7</b> <b>♥ A 5</b> <b>♦ 7 3</b> <b>♣ A Q 6</b>	<b>♠ 4</b> <b>♥ K J 8 6 2</b> <b>♦ K Q 5</b> <b>♣ K 10 7 3</b>
--	---	---



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 ♠	Dbl	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4 ♠

**4 ♠ by South**  
**Lead: ♦ J**

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

You have a good hand, a very good hand. But not good enough to open 2 ♠.

Instead you open 1 ♠, partner raises to 2 ♠ and East doubles.

Some would think it clever to now redouble - to put the pressure on East maybe.

But why bother? East would just bid 3 ♥ or 3 ♦ and then you would bid 4 ♠. So save all the in-between and just bid it now.

South plays 4 ♠. West leads the ♦ J.

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

One loser to get rid of. Perhaps you could lead toward the ♥ Q? Nope, that wouldn't work because East surely has the ♥ K for his Takeout Double.

Play East for the ♣ K and finesse him out of it? That probably would work since he likely has that card for his Takeout Double.

So you take the ♦ A, pull trumps and then . . . and then you apologize to your partner. You had to be in dummy to finesse the ♣ and you were only going to be there once. You must finesse the ♣ immediately, then pull trumps.

If you decided to play for trumps to split 2-2 so you could use the ♠ 8 as an entry back to dummy for the ♣ finesse then you need to start thinking more clearly!