

Deal 1	♠ K J 8	
North Deals	♥ A J 5	
None Vul	♦ A 3	
	♣ A J 10 7 2	
♠ Q 4 3		
♥ 10 7 6 2		
♦ J 7 6		
♣ 9 5 3		
18	♠ A 10 7 2	
3 5	♥ K Q	
14	♦ 9 8 4	
	♣ K Q 8 4	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
Pass	1 ♣	Pass
Pass	2 NT	Pass
Pass	6 ♣	Pass
6 ♣ by North		
Lead: ♦ Q		

The slam was easy to bid, now you just have to make it. North plays 6♦. East leads the ♦Q.

Now eliminate ♦s from your hand and dummy by playing ♦ K, ♦ A, ♦ J. BUT BE CAREFUL! On the ♦ J you must discard a ♦ from dummy so both of you will be out of ♦s at the throw-in.

NOW you can execute the throw-in. Play your ♦, which eliminates ♦s from both you and dummy and at the same time throws in one of the defenders. Whoever it is will be forced to lead a ♠ and eliminate your guess for the ♠Q or else give you a ruff-sluff, allowing you to ruff in dummy and discard a ♠ loser from your hand.

Perhaps Aunt Harriet isn't that lucky after all, perhaps she just knows how to

perform elimination plays.

Hopefully in the future you will be the one with the reputation!

Deal 2

South Deals	♠ 10 7 5 4 3
None Vul	♥ A 3
	♦ A 6 5
	♣ K 6 3

♠ Q J 9	♠ —
♥ K Q J 8 7 4 2	W N E S
♦ 9	♥ 9 6
♣ 10 4	♦ K Q J 10 8 7
	♣ Q J 9 7 2

11	♠ A K 8 6 2
9 9	♥ 10 5
11	♦ 4 3 2
	♣ A 8 5

West	North	East	South
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4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
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4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ K

your advantage.

Play your ♠ A, the ♦ A and the ♣ A K. West follows to everything.

You've done all you can do. Now play the ♥ T to West's high ♥.

West has just won his side's first trick with the ♥ J. He now plays the ♠ Q, winning his side's second trick.

Now, West is still on lead, and he has nothing in his hand but good ♥s. So he leads one of them, and you DO NOT RUFF. Instead you discard a ♣ from dummy and a ♦ from your own hand. West has now taken his side's third trick. He plays another good ♥, and you ruff in dummy and discard the last ♦ loser from your hand. You can now cross-ruff for the rest of the tricks.

You just wonder how many bridge players would have just conceded down 2 on this hand.

Not you or me, of course.

When the bidding gets high in a hurry you sometimes have to guess what you can make. South plays 4 ♠. West leads the ♥ K.

And it looks like you are too high. Assuming the trumps split 2-1, you still have one ♥ loser, two ♦ losers and one ♣ loser.

You win the ♥ A and play a ♠ to your ♠ K. East discards a ♦!

From bad to worse. Now you must add a ♠ loser to the four you already had. Are you finished?

No, never give up. West has a bunch of ♥s and 3 ♠s, so he cannot have many ♦s and ♣s. If you can eliminate those and then throw him in it should work to

Deal 3

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 5
♥ J 10 9 6
♦ 9 8 7 4
♣ J 9 2

19
2 8
11

♠ K Q J 7 4 2

♥ A Q 3

♦ 5

♣ A K 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6
♥ K 8 2
♦ K Q 10 3 2
♣ 10 8 6 4

♠ A 10 9 3

♥ 7 5 4
♦ A J 6

♣ Q 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass

Pass
6 ♠ by North
Lead: ♦ K

South's 3 ♠ is a limit raise, 11-12 points in support of ♠s. When you discover that the raise includes two Aces you bid the slam. North plays 6 ♠. East leads the ♦ K, won by you with dummy's ♦ A.

So rather than finesse, eliminate! Pull trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy.

Ruff the ♦ 6, then play ♣ A, ♣ K, ♣ Q.

So here you are in dummy. Do you finesse the ♥ now? Of course not. You play the ♦ J and discard a small ♥ from your hand. East wins his ♦ Q (which his opening lead told you he held) and is end-played. He must lead a ♥ to your tenace or give you a ruff-sluff.

It is a pretty simple problem, but you are no doubt getting a lot better.

Deal 4
 West Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 4 ♥ 6 ♦ A Q 8 ♣ K Q J 7 5	♠ A 8 5 3 ♥ Q 7 4 ♦ 9 7 6 2 ♣ 8 3	♠ J 10 2 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ 9 6 4 2
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6
14 2
18



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

North realizes that to make a takeout double, then jump in your own suit you must have a very good hand. So he bids the game. South plays 4 ♥. West leads the ♣ K, which you take with the ♣ A.

Play one round of trumps with the ♥ A. You can't play any more because you will need an entry to dummy for the elimination.

Next play ♠ K, ♠ A and ruff a ♠ high.

Lead a ♥ to dummy's ♥ Q. West shows out. Play dummy's last ♠. East is now void, so if he ruffs you over-ruff. Otherwise you ruff with a small trump.

Now throw West in (you hope!) with the ♣ T.

Fortunately West has to take the ♣ T. Since he has nothing left but ♣s and ♦s he must lead one or the other. A ♦ lead will give you a trick with your ♦ K and a ♠ lead will allow you to ruff in dummy (East still has a ♠) and discard a ♦ from your hand.

It was not a complete elimination since East still had a trump when you threw West in. However, it worked because West was out of both ♠s and ♥s.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

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

W	N	E	S
♠ J 10 9 7 5	♠ 4	♦ K J 9 5	♦ Q J 10 4
♦ 7	♦ 7	♦ Q J 10 4	♣ Q 10 9 2
♦ K 8 6 3	♦ K 5 3	♣ Q 10 9 2	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
4 ♠ by North			
Lead: ♦ Q			

last ♥.

You are in dummy, just where you want to be. Play the ♦ K, and when West plays the ♦ A don't ruff but instead discard a ♣ from your hand. You knew all along that he held the ♦ A.

West is end-played, forced to either break the ♣s and give you a ♣ trick, or give you a ruff-sluff.

It also depended upon the defenders not switching to ♣s at the second trick. If East had decided to switch to the ♣ Q you would have had no chance at all.

North is to play 4 ♠. East leads the ♦ Q.

The contract is in danger if West holds the ♣ A because you would have three ♣ losers to go with the ♦ already lost. One really good possibility is that West now has the lone ♦ A and you can set up dummy's ♦ K with a ruff.

So play a small ♠ to dummy's ♠ 9, (pulling the two outstanding trumps), and ruff another ♦ with an honor, hoping the ♦ A drops.

Too bad, the ♦ A did not fall so dummy's ♦ K is not a winner. But it will still prove to be useful.

Play the ♥ A, then ruff a ♥ in dummy. Play a trump to your ♠ A and ruff your last ♥.