

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 4
♥ J 9 8
♦ Q J 4
♣ J 10 7 2

11
7 8
14

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by North			
Lead: ♦ 2			

♠ A 9 8 3
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 9 6 5
♣ 8 3



♠ K 7 5 2
♥ 6 4
♦ A 8 3
♣ A K 6 4

♠ J 6
♥ Q 10 5 3
♦ K 10 7 2
♣ Q 9 5

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

There is an excellent bidding guideline which tells you how to respond with two 4-card Majors. You bid them "up-the-line". That means you bid 1 ♥.

Partner's rebid is 1 ♠. What do you bid?

This hand shows why responder should bid "up-the-line". Partner can now show a 4-card ♠ suit at the 1-level. Imagine the suits reversed - you first respond with 1 ♠. If partner wanted to show a ♥ suit he would have to go to the 2-level, and he might not have the strength to do so.

Back to the actual situation. Over partner's 1 ♠ bid you jump to 3 ♠. This jump shows about 11-12 points and good ♠ support (4 cards). In case you thought this showed 13 or more points that wouldn't be logical. If you had 13 points and 4 ♠s you would jump all the way to game. So 3 ♠ is invitational. Partner accepts the invitation.

North would play 4 ♠.

South plays 4 ♠. West leads the ♦ 2. East plays ♦ J.

Losers: ♠ 1 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 2 : Total = 5

Counting losers from the South hand you have 2 ♣ losers to get rid of. If you had counted from the North hand there would have been 2 ♥ losers to get rid of. In any case the plan is the same.

Win the ♦ A and play ♠ A and ♠ K. If the ♠s split 3-2 you are home-free. Leave the master trump out and play your ♣ A K and dummy's ♥ A K. Then cross-ruff ♣s and ♥s. Whichever defender holds the last trump is welcome to ruff with it at any time. The defense is also welcome to take their 2 ♦s at any time. Your T tricks are safe.

North and South were able to make all their small trumps individually.

If East ruffs the fourth ♥ with his master ♠ Q South just discards a ♦ loser and makes an overtrick.

Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 4

♥ 6 5 3

♦ J 4

♣ A K 9 6 5 2

6
9 15
10

West

3 NT

3 NT by East

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ Q 10 7

♥ 9 8 4

♦ K 10 5 2

♣ J 10 3



♠ K 6 5 2

♥ Q J 10 2

♦ Q 7 3

♣ Q 8

North

Pass

Pass

East

1 NT

Pass

South

Pass

Pass

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

You have 15 points and you have a balanced distribution. You should open 1 NT. It is true that you do not have ♣s stopped, but you are not required to have a stopper in all the suits to open 1 NT. Partner jumps to 3 NT and you pass.

East plays 3 NT. South leads the ♥ Q.

Winner count: ♠ 1 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 2 : Total = 6

In many Notrump hands it is good to hold up to disrupt the defender's communications. In this hand you have a double-stopper in ♥s but only a single stop in ♠s and ♦s so win the first trick.

You need 3 more tricks from the ♣ suit. As long as the ♠s split 3-2, which is very likely, you can set up the tricks you need. BUT, if you just play ♣ A ♣ K and then a small one you'll be sorry. Those extra three ♣s will be established as winners but you will have no entry to them.

Instead, you play your ♣ 4 to the second trick and also play a low card from dummy. This is called Ducking the trick. North/South will certainly win that trick, but you are in control. You can win whatever suit they play and you still have that ♣ 7 to reach dummy's solid ♠s.

But just imagine you had played ♣ A, ♣ K, ♣ 2. At that point ♣ 9 6 5 would all be winners, but don't think North is going to let you reach dummy with either of those two Jacks!

Deal 3

East Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 10 5
♥ J 7 6 2
♦ Q J 10 7
♣ 5

12
10 7
11

West

North

East

South

Pass

3 ♣

Pass

1 ♣

Pass

Pass

Pass

5 ♣

5 ♣ by South

Lead: ♦ Q

♠ K 7 4

♥ K 5

♦ A 6 4

♣ Q 8 7 4 3



♠ J 8 6 3 2

♥ Q 10 8 4

♦ 9 8 3

♣ A

♠ 9

♥ A 9 3

♦ K 5 2

♣ K J 10 9 6 2

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

Is there any doubt? Although you only have 11 HCP your 6-card suit adds 2 more. And with 13 points you should always open. So you open 1 ♣.

Partner responds 3 ♣. What do you bid?

With the ♣ fit your hand is now revalued to 15 points. But it's still a close thing. You may be able to make 5 ♣ or you may not.

Passing would not be horrible - but when in doubt it is usually better to be bold. You cross your fingers and bid 5 ♣.

South plays 5 ♣. West leads the ♦ Q.

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

The two black Aces aren't going away so if you are to make this contract you must do something about your ♦ loser. And the only likely place to put it is on dummy's ♠ K. If West has the ♠ A, you

can lead up to the ♠ K and make a winner out of it.

Suppose you win the ♦ Q in dummy and play a ♣. Somebody will win the ♣ A and play another ♦. You win this and lead toward the ♠ K. No good. West jumps up with his ♠ A and sets you with a ♦ winner.

The problem was that when you played a trump you let the timing go to the defense. They could knock out your last ♦ stopper while they still had the ♠ A. Try it this way.

Win the ♦ in your hand and immediately play the ♠ 9. If West doesn't take his ♠ A he'll never get it, so assume he goes up. Now he leads ♦ J but you win, get to dummy with the ♥ K and play the ♠ K, discarding the ♦ loser.

In this hand that something is to establish the ♠ K so you can discard your ♦ loser.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6 3

♥ K Q 10 9 6 4

♦ A K J

♣ 8

♠ 10 9 8 7

♥ A

♦ 10 6 5

♣ J 9 5 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 5

♥ J 8 7 3

♦ Q 7 4

♣ K Q 10

♠ K 4 2

♥ 5 2

♦ 9 8 3 2

♣ A 7 6 3

5
17 11
7

West

North

East

South

1 ♥

Pass

3 ♥

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♣

Pass

5 ♥

Pass

Pass

Pass

5 ♥ by West

Lead: ♠ 10

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

You have a very good hand. But not good enough to open 2 ♣, so you open 1 ♥.

Partner jumps to 3 ♥. What do you bid?

This is close. Partner has 11 or 12 points and good ♥ support. Your hand revalues to 21 points. You might have a slam. You decide to try for it and bid 4 NT. Partner replies 5 ♣ showing no Aces. So much for the slam. You bid 5 ♥.

West plays 5 ♥. North leads the ♠T. You put on dummy's ♠J, South plays the ♠K and you win the ♠A.

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

You cannot avoid losing either of the two Aces. So therefore you must do something about the ♠ loser. And the only thing you can do with it is to discard it on one of dummy's ♣s.

Be careful. If you lead a trump now a defender will take the Ace and play another ♠, exposing your loser while the ♣A is still out. You must set up the ♣ first. So at trick 2 play your ♣ to dummy's ♣Q. A defender may win this and play a ♠, but you win the ♠Q and play the ♣K, discarding your ♠ loser. Now you switch to trumps.

Imagine what the defense will do if you lead a round of trumps. Then imagine what they will do if you play a different suit instead.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 10 9 8

♥ 9 6 3

♦ Q J 4

♣ 9 7 2

19
6 7
8

♠ Q J 7 4

♥ A K

♦ 10 8 6 2

♣ A K Q



♠ A 6 3

♥ 7 5 2

♦ A 7 5 3

♣ 10 5 4

♠ 5 2

♥ Q J 10 8 4

♦ K 9

♣ J 8 6 3

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

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ Q

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

With 19 points you are too strong to open 1 NT so you open 1 ♦. Partner responds 2 ♦. What do you bid?

Perhaps you can make 5 ♦. But 9 tricks are easier than 11 so you bid 3 NT. Notice that there was no reason to "show" your ♠ suit. If partner held 4 ♠s he would not have bid 2 ♦.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♥ Q.

Winners: ♠ 1 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 3 : Total = 7

You can create one winner in ♦s if they split 3-2, but too late, the defense would have set up their ♥s. So you must get 2 more ♠ tricks.

This is one of the most misplayed positions in bridge. The usual approach is to lead the ♠ Q, hoping that East holds the ♠ K. But this can't succeed. If East does hold the ♠ K he will cover, either this trick or the ♠ J, and someone's ♠ T will

become a winner. Of course if West has the ♠ K then the finesse will fail, along with your chance of 2 more winners.

The correct way to play for 2 more tricks is to hope WEST has the ♠ K and lead twice toward your ♠ Q J. So win the first trick, play ♠ 4 to dummy's ♠ A. Lead the ♠ 3 toward your hand, playing the ♠ J if West plays low. (Of course if West ever plays the ♠ K he gives you two winners immediately.) When the ♠ J wins, return to dummy with the ♦ A and lead the ♠ 6 toward your ♠ Q.

Deal 6

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 4
♥ A 7 3
♦ K Q 5 4
♣ A K 8 2

8
16 9
7

West
1 NT
Pass
4 ♠ by East
Lead: ♦ J

♠ K 5
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ A 8 6
♣ 9 7 6 3



♠ A 10 2
♥ 10 8 4
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ Q 10 5

North
Pass
Pass

East
4 ♠

South
Pass

♠ Q J 9 8 7 3
♥ K Q 6
♦ 7 2
♣ J 4

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

HE WHO KNOWS, GOES You KNOW your side has 26-28 points. You KNOW your side has 8 or more ♠s. You GO to 4 ♠.

East plays 4 ♠. South leads the ♦ J.

Losers: ♠ 2/3 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 0 : Total = 3/4

You are definitely going to lose the ♦ A and the ♠ A K. Therefore you must plan to avoid losing a third ♠.

You should lead UP TO your honor cards. Cover the ♦ J and lose to North's ♦ A. Win his return (probably another ♦) in dummy. Lead a small ♠ to your ♠ J. South wins with an honor and probably plays the ♦ T. Ruff it, lead a ♣ to dummy and lead the last ♠. If North plays the other high honor you play low. If North plays low you guess whether to play the ♠ K, or ♠ T. Your best play is to assume the two honors were split and play the ♠ Q.

Now for an alternate possible.

You might think that South is just as likely to have held an original doubleton ♠ A K as doubleton ♠ A T, and that playing the ♠ 9 would be as good a play as ♠ Q.

This is untrue for a very classy-named reason - The Principle of Restricted Choice. You may not even believe it when you read it, but it's mathematically sound. If South were dealt an original ♠ A K, he would have been just as likely to win with the ♠ K as with the ♠ A. The fact that he actually won the ♠ A makes it less likely that he also holds the ♠ K.