Deal 1
North Deals
None Vul

	♠ A K 6	
	♥ A	
	◊ A K J 5 3 2	
	♣ Q J 2	

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

22
6   6
6

	♠ 4	
	♥ K Q J 10 3	
	◊ 10 6 4	
	♣ 8 7 6 4	

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

3 NT by North
Lead: ♠ Q

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ Q.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ◊=2 ♣=0 Total = 5

There they are, four perfectly good ♥ tricks and no straightforward way to reach them. On the other hand, (I should say "In the other hand"), you have the possibility of 6 ◊ tricks, if the ◊ Q drops, in which case you won't need the ♥ tricks at all. Can you work those two possibilities into a strategy?

Sure. The ◊ problem is that the outstanding ◊s may split 3-1 with one defender holding ◊ Q x x. So it would appear you could only get 5 ◊ winners. But you can thwart him like this.

Win the ♠. Unblock the ♥ A. Now play the ◊ J. If Mr. ◊ Q x x takes this trick dummy's ◊ T will become an entry to those wonderful ♥s. But if he cleverly refuses to win the ◊ Q, then it will fall under your ◊ A K and you will get all 6 ◊ tricks.

Maybe after the hand is over he will appreciate it more and congratulate you.

Deal 2
North Deals
None Vul

♠ K
♡ A K 7 5 3
♦ A K Q 6
♣ K 10 5

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

N
W   E
S

♠ Q J 10 9 3
♡ 6 2
♦ 8 5 4
♣ A J 3

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

3 NT by South
Lead: ♦ 2

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♦ 2.

Winners: ♠=1 ♡=2 ♦=3 ♣=2 Total = 8

The reason the Winners list shows 1 ♠ is that the defenders are going to have to let you win dummy's ♠ K. If they take that then you'll have 4 ♠ winners in your hand!

So you only need one more winner really, and if you guess the ♣ finesse right you will have it. Which way will you finesse, and why?

You will finesse through East. If he has the ♣ Q you will win all 3 ♣ tricks, but if West has the ♣ Q you may win even more. Just watch.

Win the opening ♦ lead in dummy. Play the ♠ K which the defenders are not about to take while you have a ♣ entry to your hand. Now play the ♣T and pass it to West. If West takes the ♣ Q then you will have TWO entries to your hand, one to get there for a ♠ lead, and the other to reach the ♠ winners after you have driven out the ♠ A. But if West DOESN'T take the ♣ Q, or if East actually has it, then you will have 3 ♣ tricks and your contract.

Deal 3
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A K
♡ K 10 3
◇ A K 8 6
♣ A J 10 9

♠ J 7 4 3
♡ 6
◇ Q 10 9 2
♣ Q 8 7 3

N W E S

♠ 10 9 8 5 2
♡ 9 7 5 2
◇ J 4
♣ K 5

♠ Q 6
♡ A Q J 8 4
◇ 7 5 3
♣ 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♡
Pass	2 NT	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 NT by North
Lead: ♠ 10

North is to play 6 NT. East leads the ♠T.

Winners: ♠ = 2   ♡ = 5   ◇ = 2   ♣ = 1
Total = T

You need two more winners and the best bet is to try to pick up three ♣ tricks. You will need the ♣ K and ♣ Q to lie in different hands, or both of them to be with West. That is about a 75% chance.

But you may need to make 3 finesses, so that means 3 entries to dummy, all of which must be in the ♡ suit. Can it be done?

Of course it can. Win the ♠ lead in your hand and play the ♡ K, overtaking with dummy's ♡ A. Now play a ♣ to your ♣ 9, which loses to East's ♣ K. East plays another ♠.

Now play the ♡T, and when East follows you are safe to overtake with dummy's ♡ J since you can tell that West did not start with 4 ♡s. In fact, West shows out so it is East who started with 4 ♡s but that won't be a problem for you. Play another ♣ from dummy, finessing the ♣T which wins.

Now play your ♡ 3 toward dummy, finessing the ♡ 8 when East follows with a low card. Play dummy's two ♡ winners, discarding ◇s, then the low ♣ to your ♣ J. Wow.

And as you have figured by now, assessing how many entries you are going to need is big part of that plan. Like here, if you had won a single ♡ trick in your hand then you wouldn't have had the three entries to dummy.

Deal 4
South Deals
None Vul

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              ♠ 8
              ♡ A K 8 6 5 4 3
              ◊ 8 5 4
              ♣ Q 3
♠ 10 4                        ♠ 6 5 3 2
♡ J 9 2          N            ♡ Q 10 7
◊ Q J 10 3     W   E          ◊ 9 7
♣ 10 8 6 2       S            ♣ K 9 7 4
              ♠ A K Q J 9 7
              ♡ —
              ◊ A K 6 2
              ♣ A J 5
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West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♡	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♡	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South
Lead: ◊ Q

Pretty bold bidding by South, but partner DID make a positive response. South is to play 6 ♠. West leads the ◊ Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♡=0 ◊=2 ♣=1 Total = 3

OK, the plan is to get over to dummy for those two ♡ winners.

If you just play a small ♣ toward the ♣ Q that will work whenever West holds the ♣ K.

How about playing ♣ A an a small ♣, planning on ruffing your third ♣ to get to dummy? Naaah. They will win the second ♣ and play a trump.

There is actually a play that is T0% certain, no matter who holds the ♣ K.

Win the opening lead and lay down your ♣ J. The defense is helpless. If they take the ♣ J with the ♣ K, then you have a dummy entry in the form of the ♣ Q. If they refuse to take the trick you will counter by next laying down the ♣ A, then ruffing a third ♣ to get to dummy and the two golden eggs.

My dream is that someday I will get a chance to use it at the table. If you ever do be sure and email me.