

**Deal 1**

North Deals	♠ K 6 3
None Vul	♥ Q J
	♦ A K 4 2
	♣ A 10 6 4

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



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

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 NT
ALL	Pass		
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♠ 2			

South's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s. North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 5

Obviously you need to establish 4 ♥ winners and by driving out the ♥ A you can manage that handily. The problem is that dummy has only one sure entry, (the ♠ A), and the defenders may be good enough to hold up their ♥ A twice.

To assure the contract you should win the first trick in your hand with the ♠ K. Then play ♥ Q, ♥ J overtaking with dummy's ♥ K so you can continue establishing the suit while you still have that ♠ entry.

**Deal 2**

West Deals

None Vul

**♠ A J 6 4****♥ 7 5****♦ 6 3****♣ A K 6 4 3****8**  
**12 13****7****♠ —****♥ 10 9 6 3****♦ K Q J 9 4****♣ Q 10 9 7****♠ K Q 9 8 7 5 2****♥ A 2****♦ A 2****♣ 5 2****♠ 10 3****♥ K Q J 8 4****♦ 10 8 7 5****♣ J 8****West****North****East****South****1 ♣****Pass****1 ♠****Pass****2 ♠****Pass****4 NT****Pass****5 ♥****Pass****6 ♠****Pass****Pass****Pass****6 ♠ by East****Lead: ♥ K**

East is to play 6 ♠. South leads the ♥ K.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

One of the two red losers must be discarded on dummy's ♣ suit. So you pull trumps, taking two rounds, with ♠K and ♠Q. Then play two top ♠s and ruff a ♣. When South shows out on the third ♣, enter dummy with a trump and ruff another ♣. Dummy's final ♣ is now established, so enter dummy with another trump and discard one of the red losers on the fifth ♣.

**Deal 3**

South Deals

None Vul

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

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



6 7	♦ Q J 5
10	♦ K 5 4 3
17	♦ A 4 3
	♣ A K 5

West	North	East	South
			1 NT

Pass	Pass	Pass	
1 NT by South			
Lead: ♦ 6			

South is to play 1 NT. West leads the ♦ 6, taken by East with the ♦ J. East next plays the ♦ Q on which West plays the ♦ 2. East plays the ♦ 9 which you finally win.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

You only need one more winner and you have several possibilities. The ♥ finesse might work, or the ♣s might split 3-3. But you need to consider the defenders winners also. They have already scored 2 ♦ tricks and will get 2 more as soon as they gain the lead. (The spot cards told you that West has a 5-card ♦ suit.) Plus they have the 2 top ♠s which they can take whenever they like. So if your play sets up just one more trick for them you will go down.

No, you must establish ♠s, the suit where they have 2 winners anyway. So you play a ♠ which West wins. He takes his 2 ♦s but you are now home free. When you gain the lead again you will get your ♠ winner established and only lose 2 ♠s and 4 ♦s.

If you had played 3 rounds of ♣s you would have gone down with the defenders winning 4 ♦s, 1 ♣ and 2 ♠s.

Only by establishing ♠s can you make the contract.

**Deal 4**West Deals  
None Vul

♠ K J 7	♦ A K 7 5	♥ A 8 7 3	♣ K Q
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20	5	6	9
9			

West	North	East	South
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by West			
Lead: ♠ 9			

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

N		
W	E	
S		

West is to play 3 NT. North leads the ♠ 9, taken by South with the ♠ A. South next plays the ♠ 4.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 8

You only need one more winner and if ♦s split 3-3 you can easily establish a trick in that suit. But what if ♦s split 4-2? If the ♣ J falls you can get an extra ♣ trick. In fact, no matter how the ♣s are arranged you can establish your extra trick there.

First make sure that you win the second trick with the ♠ K, keeping dummy's ♠ Q for a later entry. Then play ♣ K, and ♣ Q overtaking with dummy's ♣ A. Then play the ♣ T, losing to the ♣ J but establishing the ♣ 9 while you still have the ♠ Q as an entry.

**Deal 5**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ K J 9</b> <b>♥ J 10 8 4</b> <b>♦ Q J 10 5</b> <b>♣ 9 2</b>  <b>8 8<sup>15</sup></b> <b>9</b>	<b>♠ 7 6 3</b> <b>♥ A K 5 2</b> <b>♦ A 8 6</b> <b>♣ A 7 5</b>  <b>♠ A 8 5 2</b> <b>♥ Q 7</b> <b>♦ K 7 4</b> <b>♣ 8 6 4 3</b>	<b>♠ Q 10 4</b> <b>♥ 9 6 3</b> <b>♦ 9 3 2</b> <b>♣ K Q J 10</b>
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<i>West</i> Pass Pass 2 NT by North Lead: ♣ K	<i>North</i> 1 NT 2 ♥	<i>East</i> Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 2 ♣ 2 NT
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North is to play 2 NT. East leads the ♣ K.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=3 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 7

You need to find another winner and the chances are not good. If either black suit splits 3-3 you can establish dummy's fourth card in that suit. But with East's opening lead of the ♣ K it is unlikely that ♣s will split. So your only slim hope is that the ♠s split 3-3 and dummy's fourth ♠ will be a winner.

Win the first trick and play a ♠ to the ♠ A. Then play another ♠. The defense will win and probably take some ♣ tricks. When they have finished and play a red card, you win it and play a third round of ♠s. If both defenders follow to all three ♠s then dummy's ♠ 8 is now a winner.

Next time they probably won't and you'll go down.