

**Deal 1**

South Deals	♠ 7 4 3		
None Vul	♥ 9 7 6		
	♦ 8 5		
	♣ A K 6 4 2		
♠ Q 10 8	♠ K J 9 5 2		
♥ J 10 5 3	♥ Q 8 4		
♦ K 9 2	♦ J 10 6 4		
♣ J 10 3	♣ 9		
	♠ A 6		
	♥ A K 2		
	♦ A Q 7 3		
	♣ Q 8 7 5		
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♠ 5			

North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 5.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=5 Total = 9

Wow! The winners add up to 9 already. We have assumed that ♣s will split no worse than 3-1, which is exactly how they do split. Is there any other pitfall you might need to worry about?

Just one minor problem. The ♣s will block if you are not careful. If you win the ♠A, then play dummy's ♣Q. Next you play dummy's ♣8 to your ♣K. Then your ♣A on which you put dummy's ♣7. Aha! Now when you play your ♣6 you will be able to keep the lead.

As they are, though, the contract is cold. But only if you are a good bridge player!

**Deal 2**

West Deals

None Vul

**Deal 3**

North Deals	♠ 10 7
None Vul	♥ 8 6 5
	♦ K Q 7 3
	♣ J 9 4 2

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



♠ A 6 4 3
♥ A J 4
♦ A J
♣ A K 8 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♣ 5			

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♣ 5. You play low from dummy and East plays the ♣ 6.

Winners: ♠ = 1    ♥ = 1    ♦ = 4?    ♣ = 3  
Total = 9

Although you have 4 ♦ winners, getting to the last couple might not be so easy. You can make 3 ♦ tricks simply by winning your ♦ A, then overtaking your ♦ J with dummy's ♦ Q. But you need that fourth ♦ winner. Can you get it?

Sure you can, by creating an entry in ♣s. It is likely from the opening lead, (and East's play of a small card), that West has led from ♣ Q T 7 5. If you win the first trick cheaply then you will still make your ♣ A K for three ♣ tricks in all.

So don't win cheaply, win the first trick with the ♣ A. Then unblock your ♦ A J. Next play ♣ K. (on which East discards), and a small ♣ toward dummy's ♣ J 9. You are sure to have a ♣ entry to dummy's ♦s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

You probably would have played the hand the same way you just did, unblock ♦s, then play ♣ A K and a low ♣ toward the ♣ J 9 trying to get a ♣ entry to dummy.

It is only because the ♣ opening lead gives you the chance for a Cheap-Trick that you are tempted to go wrong.

**Deal 4**East Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 6  
♥ K 5 2  
♦ K Q J 5  
♣ A Q J 4

20 7  
20 5  
8

West  
2 NT  
Pass  
3 NT by West  
Lead: ♠ Q

♠ Q J 10 9 5  
♥ A 9 3  
♦ 9 8 3  
♣ 10 8

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

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

North  
Pass  
3 NT

East  
Pass  
Pass

West is to play 3 NT. North leads the ♠ Q. South plays the ♠ K, then the ♠ 2 when you hold up.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=0 ♦=4 ♣=1 Total = 6

You are going to have to be pretty lucky to make this contract. You cannot touch the ♥ suit because a defender would take the ♥ A and it would start raining ♠s.

So you will have to get 3 extra ♣ winners, which means the ♣ finesse absolutely MUST work.

In addition to lucky, you are going to have to be pretty good, too. You will surely have to finesse the ♣s at least twice; that means you need two dummy entries. Can you find them?

Maybe in ♦s. Play the ♦ K, then ♦ Q, watching the defender's cards carefully. When both follow twice you know there is only a single ♦ left out, so you play the ♦ J to dummy's ♦ A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦ 5 to dummy's ♦ 6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Then your chance of success goes way down. You would have to find South with the doubleton ♣ K.