

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 5
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ Q J 9 5 3
♣ 6

15
8 7
10

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ A K 8 7 4 2

♥ A 6

♦ A 10 2

♣ 5 3



♠ 6 3

♥ 7 5 4

♦ 7 6 4

♣ A K Q J 7

North

1 ♠

3 ♠

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

4 ♠

♠ J 10

♥ Q J 10 2

♦ K 8

♣ 10 9 8 4 2

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

Of course you open 1 ♠. Partner responds 2 ♣.

With 17 points and a 6-card suit you jump to 3 ♠. Partner bids the game.

North plays 4 ♠. East leads the ♥ Q.

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

You have plenty of ♣ winners in dummy but you must be careful because there are no outside entries. You win your ♥ A and play ♠ A and ♠ K, both defenders following suit. The ♠ Q is still out. To make sure you get to enjoy those ♣ winners you should continue with another ♠, forcing out the ♠ Q. The defense will now take a ♥ if they are smart, but the rest of the tricks are yours because you can run the ♣ suit without anyone trumping in.

West would have used his master ♠ Q to ruff the second ♣, before you had taken any discards. You

would still have to lose a ♥ and two ♦s.

Deal 2

East Deals
None Vul

♠ K 8 6 4
♥ Q J 3
♦ A K 2
♣ A 9 5

11
17 7
5

West

Pass
1 NT by East
Lead: ♣ 4

♠ Q 10 7
♥ K 9 5
♦ J 10 8 3
♣ K Q 2



♠ 9 5 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ 7 4
♣ J 10 6 4 3

North

Pass

♠ A J 3
♥ 10 8 6 4
♦ Q 9 6 5
♣ 8 7

East
1 NT

South
Pass

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

East's 1NT opening shows a maximum of 17 points. Add your 7 and you come up with only 24 - not enough to think about game. So you pass.

East would play 1 NT.

West plays 1 NT. North leads the ♣ 4. South plays the ♣ Q, then the ♣ K, North playing the ♣ 3 on the second trick. South then plays the ♣ 2 which you win with your ♣ A.

Winners: ♠ 2 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 3 : ♣ 1 : Total = 6

You only need one more winner and there are possibilities in ♠s, ♥s and ♦s. But you need to be very careful. If you watched those ♣ spots you will realize that North started with 5 ♣s (he led the ♣ 4, later played the ♣ 3). So the defenders will win 2 more ♣ tricks to go with the 2 they already have. And they can also take the ♥ A and ♥ K whenever they want. In other words, they also

have 6 winners. So the battle is for the 7th trick for either side. If you do anything that gives them a trick they will win.

So you don't try for a trick in ♠s or ♦s. Instead you play on ♥s, the suit where they have the 2 sure winners anyway. They will win one of their high honors, take their 2 ♣s, then play either ♠s or ♦s. You win and drive out the other ♥ honor.

If you play your three high ♦s you will set up a winner for THEM and you will go down.

Only if you establish your ♥s can you set up a winner for YOU without giving them an extra trick.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 7
♥ A J 6 4
♦ Q 10
♣ Q J 10 5 2

8
10 7
15

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ Q

♠ 8 6

♥ 9 3

♦ A 9 7 4 2

♣ A 7 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K Q J 5 2

♥ K Q 7

♦ 5 3

♣ 9 4

North

1 NT

4 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

3 ♠

Pass

♠ 10 4 3
♥ 10 8 5 2
♦ K J 8 6
♣ K 8

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

You have an easy choice, you open 1 ♠.

Partner responds 1 NT.

Partner is showing 6-10 points. With 17 points you are strong enough to invite game. You show your 6-card suit by jumping to 3 ♠. Partner bids 4 ♠.

South plays 4 ♠. West leads the ♣ Q.

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

You have no time to waste. You have no way to discard either minor suit loser, so you absolutely must ruff a ♥ in dummy. You dare not pull a trump. Win the ♣ A in dummy and play a ♥ to your ♥ Q. West will win and probably lead a trump. You win, cash the ♥ K and ruff your small ♥ with dummy's last trump. Now take the ♦ A and give up the lead. Ruff at the first opportunity and pull trumps, making 6 ♠ tricks, 2 minor suit Aces, one ♥ trick and a ♥ ruff in dummy.

Always draw them - unless you have some other need for them first. Like in this hand.

Notice this. You cannot fault West for his opening lead, top of an honor sequence is very logical. BUT, if he had led a trump you would have gone down.

Deal 4

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A K Q 9 8
♥ K 8 3
♦ J 5 2
♣ 7 4

7
13 8
12

West

1 ♠

Pass

2 ♠ by West

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ 7 3 2
♥ Q J 10 6 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ 10 5



♠ J 5
♥ 9 7
♦ K Q 10 8
♣ A Q 9 8 3

North

Pass

Pass

East

2 ♠

South

Pass

♠ 10 6 4
♥ A 5
♦ 9 6 4 3
♣ K J 6 2

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

You open 1 ♠. Partner responds 2 ♠. What is your bid?

This was easy. You had a minimum opening bid and partner gave a minimum response. You pass.

West plays 2 ♠. North leads the ♥ Q.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 3 : ♣ 2 : Total = 6

You have one loser too many. It doesn't seem you can do anything about the 3 ♦s but you might be able to avoid one of the ♣s if you are lucky. However, you can probably get rid of the ♥ loser by ruffing it in dummy.

One small worry - South's play of the ♥ 9 might be the start of a doubleton signal. If so, he may be able to over-ruff dummy. You should have played the ♥ A on the first trick. Next you pull two rounds of trumps with ♠ A, ♠ K. Only then do you

play ♥ K and ♥ 8 ruffing with dummy's last trump. Fortunately South only had two trumps and cannot over-ruff, even though he is out of ♥s.

When you get back in you will pull trumps and lead toward dummy's ♣ K J, hoping to make a good guess.

The only way to make the contract was to ruff a ♥ in dummy.

Deal 5

West Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 8 4
♥ Q 10 3
♦ K 9 2
♣ 9 6 3

14
6 7
13

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

3 NT by North
Lead: ♣ K

♠ K 7 3
♥ A 6 4
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ A 8 2



♠ A Q 6
♥ K 7 5 2
♦ A 8 7 3
♣ 7 5

♠ 10 5 2
♥ J 9 8
♦ 6 4
♣ K Q J 10 4

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

With 14 points you will naturally open the bidding. You should open a 4-card ♦ suit rather than a 3-card ♣ suit. Partner responds 1♥.

Partner might have bid a 4-card suit so you cannot support ♥s with only 3. Instead, you describe your balanced, minimum opener by bidding 1NT. Partner then bids 3NT and you pass.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♣ K.

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

You need to find 2 more winners and they can come from the ♦ suit. You can finesse East for the ♦ K. If he has it then you will get 3 extra tricks, but even if West has the ♦ K you can still make 2 winners.

The problem is that if you win the first or second ♣ and then try the ♦ finesse West may win and

still have a ♣ to lead back to his partner. So you should hold up the ♣ A until the third round of the suit. Then if West wins the ♦ K he may not have another ♣.

When West won the ♦ K he would still have had a ♣ to return to East's hand. You would have lost 4 ♣ tricks and the ♦ K.

But what if West DID have another ♣ when he won the ♦ K?

to see different West/East hands.

When West won the ♦ K here he had a fourth ♣ to return to East's hand. That means the ♣ suit split 4-4 so you would have lost only 3 ♣ tricks and the ♦ K.

Deal 6

East Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7 2
♥ K Q 8 6
♦ Q 9 2
♣ K Q 7

0
14 13
13

West

3 ♦
Pass
4 ♠ by East
Lead: ♦ A

♠ 10

♥ 10 9 7 4 2

♦ 7 3

♣ 10 9 5 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ J 9 3

♥ A 5 3

♦ A K J 10 5 4

♣ 6

North

Pass
Pass

East

1 ♠
4 ♠

South

2 ♦
Pass

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

You have an easy 1 ♠ opening bid.

But South overcalls 2 ♦ and partner bids 3 ♦.

What do you bid next?

You should be certain to have a partnership agreement on the meaning of a cue-bid after an overcall.

Most good players use it to show support for opener's suit and at least 11 points. In other words, a hand with which you would have made a limit-raise or better.

So you bid the ♠ game.

East plays 4 ♠. South leads the ♦ A, then ♦ K, then ♦ J. North discards on the second ♦ and ruffs the third one with the ♠ T.

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

The loser count looks a little messy - that's because of the circumstances. If you could have just played three rounds of ♠s you would probably have had 0 losers, and if you ruff this ♦ you will have only 2 ♦ losers, but maybe create a ♠ loser.

But though the loser count is confused your plan should not be. You DO NOT over-ruff the ♠ T. Instead you discard your one ♥ loser (a loser-on-loser play). North can have this trick but whatever he returns you will win, pull trumps in THREE rounds if necessary, and take the rest of the tricks.

But did you notice that South made a bad play? He should have cashed his ♥ A before he led the third ♦ for his partner to ruff. Then when his partner ruffed with the ♠ T your goose would have been cooked.