

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7 3
♥ Q 10
♦ J 10 9 5 2
♣ K 6 5

9
9 7
15

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ J

♠ 6 2

♥ 5 3 2

♦ A K Q 7 6 4

♣ 4 2



♠ A Q 4

♥ A 9 6

♦ 8 3

♣ A J 10 7 3

North

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♦

3 NT

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

With 11 points and a beautiful 6-card suit this is the perfect hand for a Weak-2 opener. So you open 2 ♦. Partner responds 2 NT.

Partner's 2 NT bid is a standard response to a Weak 2-bid. You are expected to rebid your suit if you have a minimum (6-8 point) hand. Otherwise you are to bid an outside suit in which you hold a high card - this is called "showing a feature". And the final possibility is this one, where you have a solid suit, either A K Q x x x or A K J T x x. In this case you bid 3 NT.

North would play 3 NT.

South plays 3 NT. West leads ♠ J. East plays ♠ K.

Winner count: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 3 : ♣ 1 : Total = 7

The ♠ lead assures you of two tricks in the suit. So you only need to create two more. If the ♦s split 3-2 (likely) you could get 3 extra tricks there. But

there's a danger - if they split 4-1 you wouldn't have an entry to them. Well, you wouldn't have an entry unless you DUCKED the first ♦. Then a 4-1 split wouldn't prevent you from making 5 ♦ winners.

So you win the ♠ A and lead the ♦ 3, planning to duck.

West shows out.

Make PLAN B, then

West shows out.

That's tough. No matter how you play them you can only get 3 ♦ winners. So you must turn elsewhere - elsewhere being the ♣ suit.

Win the ♦ Q but don't play another ♦ yet, you need an entry back to dummy later. Instead, lead the ♣ 2 and finesse your ♣ T. West will win with one of the high ♣s and probably return a ♠. You may as well take the ♠ Q now. Play your ♦ 8 to dummy's ♦ K, cash the ♦ A, then play the ♣ 4, finessing your ♣ J. Fortunately this wins and when you cash your ♣ A both defenders follow. The rest of your clubs are good and you make an overtrick.

When the ♦s turned out to be 5-0 you had to get lucky. Your back-up Plan wasn't likely to work - it required the missing ♣ honors to be split, but also required a 3-3 ♣ split, not a likely outcome.

But there was no other choice so you have to try it.

Deal 2

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 5
♥ K 9
♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ A 8 5 3

7
7 15
11

West

Pass

4 ♥

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♠ Q

♠ 9 4

♥ Q 5 2

♦ Q 10 9

♣ Q J 9 6 2



♠ Q J 10 8 3

♥ 6 3

♦ A J 3

♣ K 10 7

North

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♥

3 ♥

Pass

South

1 ♠

Pass

Pass

♠ A K 7 2

♥ A J 10 8 7 4

♦ K 5

♣ 4

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

You open 1 ♥, South overcalls 1 ♠ and partner passes.

What do you say?

You shouldn't let South steal from you so you will bid your ♥s again. You must decide between 2 ♥ and 3 ♥. Given that partner might have had a pretty decent hand yet still have to pass, you decide to go with 3 ♥. Partner bids 4 ♥.

East plays 4 ♥. South leads the ♠ Q.

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

Win the ♠ K, then enter dummy with the ♣ A and play another ♠ toward your ♠ A. You do this to prevent North ruffing your high ♠. Next you lead the ♠ 2 and ruff with dummy's ♥ K. Ruff a ♣ to get back to your hand and ruff the ♠ 7 with dummy's ♥ 9. North may over-ruff this, but only with a trump trick he was going to win anyway.

You will lose two ♦s and the ♥ Q but no more.

The problem is that North would have over-ruffed the ♥ 9 and then played another ♥ and you would not have gotten to ruff either ♠,

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 3 2
♥ 9 5
♦ Q 8 7 2
♣ K Q 10 9

16
9 7
8

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ K

♠ A

♥ A K J 10 7 4

♦ A 9 3

♣ 6 5 3



♠ J 9 8 5 4

♥ Q 6

♦ J 10 4

♣ A 7 2

North

1 ♠
4 ♥

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♥
3 ♥
Pass

♠ K 10 7 6

♥ 8 3 2

♦ K 6 5

♣ J 8 4

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

You respond 1 ♠, your 5-card Major. Partner jumps to 3 ♥.

Make your next bid.

Partner is showing 16-18 points and you have 9. Since he rebid ♥s he must have at least six of them you know there is an 8-card fit. You bid 4 ♥.

South would play 4 ♥.

North plays 4 ♥. East leads the ♣ K.

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

You might consider setting up dummy's ♠ suit for a discard but there are too few entries to make that work.

More promising is playing West to have at least one of the ♦ honors and taking two finesses in that suit. BUT, entries are still a problem. You can only reach dummy twice, once with the ♣ A and once

with the ♥ Q, and you must play ♦s each time you are there.

Win the first trick with the ♣ A and play the ♦ J, letting it ride if West doesn't cover. East will win this trick and take two ♣s. He will probably then lead a ♠. You win your ♠ A, play ♥ A then a small ♥ to dummy's ♥ Q. Now lead a ♦ and finesse with your ♦ 9. When this wins, pull trumps and claim.

This will happen about 75% of the time, so the double finesse is a good Plan. And on this Deal it was the only plan available.

Deal 4

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 6 5 2
♥ 10 4
♦ Q 7 4 3
♣ J 6

8
8 15
9

West

1 ♥

3 ♥

Pass

4 ♥ by West

Lead: ♣ A

♠ 9 8 4

♥ J 5

♦ 10 9 8

♣ A K 10 7 4



♠ K Q 10 3

♥ 9 7 3

♦ K J 6 2

♣ 8 2

North

Pass

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♠

4 ♥

South

Pass

Pass

♠ 7
♥ A K Q 8 6 2
♦ A 5
♣ Q 9 5 3

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

You respond with your 5-card Major, 1 ♠.

Partner jumps to 3 ♥. What do you bid?

With partner's 16-18 points you probably have enough strength for game.

With partner's six ♥s you have an 8-card fit.

So you bid 4 ♥.

West would play 4 ♥.

East plays 4 ♥. South leads ♣ A, ♣ K, ♣ 4. North plays ♣ 8 then ♣ 2.

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

Suppose you discard a ♦ from dummy. If North doesn't ruff this ♣ then your ♣ Q will win. You could then try to establish dummy's ♦ Q to discard your fourth ♣ on.

But you know that plan won't work because North IS going to ruff this ♣ if you discard. You only have one chance to make this contract, and that is the chance that North was not dealt the ♥ J. So you ruff with dummy's ♥ T and pray North doesn't over-ruff.

So you won that trick and still had your ♣ Q to use after you pulled trumps.