

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 8 6 4**♥ K 7 4****♦ 10 7 3****♣ Q J 3****20****9 5****6**

	N		E	
W				S

♠ 9 2
♥ J 10 9 8 2
♦ 9 4
♣ A 9 7 6

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

West	North	East	South
	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by North

Lead: **♥ J**

You are the Dealer.

With 20 HCP and balanced distribution you should open 2 NT. Do not let the good 4-card ♠ suit sway you to anything else. Partner bids 3 NT and everybody passes.

You try the ♥ Q, but West plays the ♥ K.

You need 3 more winners and at least 2 of them must come from ♠s. Furthermore you don't want West to lead ♣s through your King. Your best hope is that West holds the ♠ K so you can finesse.

So you win the ♥ A and start thinking about dummy entries. Your obvious entries are the ♦ K and ♦ J. If West holds only two small ♠s with his ♠ K, then two entries will be enough. But what if West holds ♠ K x x x ? Can you find a third entry to dummy?

If the ♦s split 3-2 the answer is YES. Play the ♦ A, then lead your ♦ 8 to dummy's ♦ J. Watch carefully to see if both defenders follow to this

trick. They do. Play a ♠ to your ♠ T, which holds the trick. Play your ♦ Q to dummy's ♦ K. Finesse the ♠ again. Return to dummy by playing your ♦ 5 to dummy's ♦ 6, then finesse the ♠ one last time.

That would have been very unlucky.

If you played your ♦ 5 too early you would not have been able to enter dummy three times even when there was a 3-2 split. That would have been very unsmart.

Deal 2
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ 10 8 5 4 2
 ♥ Q 9 5
 ♦ K 8 5
 ♣ 8 3

21
 5 8
 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 9
 ♥ A 6 4 2
 ♦ A 10 9 3
 ♣ A K

♠ 7 6
 ♥ K 10 7
 ♦ Q J 6 2
 ♣ Q 7 6 2

♠ K J 3
 ♥ J 8 3
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ J 10 9 5 4

West North East South
 Pass 3 NT Pass 2 NT
 Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 4

You have 6 HCP and a 5-card suit. Although you can't be sure, there is a good chance your hand will be useful to partner.

So you bid 3 NT.

The contract would be 3 NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 4. You play dummy's ♠ 3 and West contributes the ♠ 6.

Make a Plan then

You need two more winners. You can get them in ♣s, but only if you are careful.

After you unblock the ♠ A K you will go to dummy and play the ♠ J. Then, after the ♠ Q is driven out you will return to dummy for the two ♣ winners. That means you need TWO dummy entries.

Those two entries can only be the ♠ K and ♠ J. So you absolutely MUST win the first trick in your

hand with the ♠ A. Then play the ♣ A K. Over to dummy by playing ♠ 9 to ♠ J. Lead the ♠ J to drive out the ♠ Q. Win whatever they return and play ♠ Q to ♠ K to reach your two good ♣s.

You can only win 3 ♠ tricks however you play it, so you play to suit your entry needs.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 3
♥ J 9 8
♦ Q 10 7 2
♣ K 7 5

¹⁷
8 6
9

N
W E
S

♠ A J 5
♥ A 6 3
♦ A K 6
♣ J 10 9 2

♠ K 10 8 6 2
♥ Q 10 4
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3 NT by North
Lead: ♠ 6

With no 4-card Major suit you respond 2 ♦ to partner's Stayman bid. Partner now bids 2 NT. What do you say?

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With a full 17 points you accept partner's game invitation and bid 3 NT.

East leads the ♠ 6 on which West plays the ♠ Q.

You need 3 more tricks, obviously coming from the ♣ suit.

But the burning question right now is what do you do at trick one. Do you win or hold up?

You should assume that East holds the ♠ K.

If you take the ♠ A right now your ♠ J 5 will provide a second stopper if it is East who gets the lead. However, if West gets the lead he will play through your holding and you may lose 4 ♠ tricks.

If you hold up you can expect West to play another ♠ through your ♠ A J and East will then establish the suit. However, in doing so he will remove any ♠ held by West.

The answer key lies in the ♣ suit. You will be finessing through East, so West is the only defender who can get the lead in ♣s. Therefore you must hold up on ♣s until the third round.

But, if you hold up your ♠ A until the third round, West will have no ♠ left when he wins the ♣ K.

Deal 4

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

¹⁷ 6 10 7	[♠] K J 6 5 2 ♥ Q J 10 4 3 ♦ 8 3 ♣ 4
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West	North	East	South
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

4 ♠ by South
Lead: ♥ 5

When you are 5-5 in the Majors you can transfer to either suit. Most will say transfer first to ♥s when you have invitational strength. So you bid 2 ♦.

Partner says 2 ♥; what do you bid?

When you are 5-5 in the Majors you can transfer to either suit. Most will say transfer first to ♥s when you have invitational strength. So you bid 2 ♦.

Partner says 2 ♥; what do you bid?

Now you show your other 5-card Major by bidding 2 ♠. This one hits the spot and partner raises to 4 ♠.

East takes the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 6 which West ruffs. West then plays the ♦ 2.

That's an odd way to show the second ♥ loser but you get the idea. You've lost 2 tricks already and it doesn't look like you can dodge the ♣ A. Soooooo, you cannot afford to lose a ♦ trick.

Take dummy's ♦ A and then play ♠ A, ♠ K, relaxing a little when both defenders follow suit both times.

Play your three high ♥s, discarding all three ♦s from dummy. Play your ♣ toward the ♣ K. West will no doubt grab his ♣ A but the rest will be yours, since you can ruff your ♦ loser in dummy.

But it was very very lucky that the ruffer happened to be the defender with three trumps!

That meant you could pull trumps with two pulls, leaving that one important one in dummy.