

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A 8 2
♦ K J 5
♣ Q 10 7 4

16
10 6
8

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 6

♠ A 7 5

♥ J 7

♦ A 10 8 6 3

♣ A K 5



♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q 10 5 4

♦ 9 4

♣ 8 6 3

North

1 NT

2 ♥

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♦

2 NT

Pass

South's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2 NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 6, you play dummy's ♠ 9 and West contributes the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 5

The math is easy - you need 4 ♥ tricks. And you should be able to manage that by driving out the ♥ A. But the defenders will probably hold up one or two rounds when you play on ♥s, so you must have an outside entry to dummy.

The ♠ Q J will provide that entry IF you make sure to win the first trick with your ♠ A as an unblocking move. If you don't do so then East will be able to keep you out of the dummy and away from those good ♥s.

But if you win the first trick with the ♠ A, then dummy's ♠ Q J will provide a guaranteed entry to the good ♥s.

Deal 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 4

♥ Q J 10 5 3

♦ 7 5 4

♣ 8 2

8
7 18
7

♠ 8 6 3

♥ A 8 2

♦ Q J 9

♣ J 10 7 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 7 2

♥ K 6 4

♦ 10 8 2

♣ Q 6 3

♠ A 10 5

♥ 9 7

♦ A K 6 3

♣ A K 9 5

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

East is to play 3 NT. South leads the ♠ 2, you play dummy's ♠ 4 and North plays the ♠ 8.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing just two more winners it looks straightforward to establish dummy's ♥ suit. Suppose you win the ♠T and play the ♥ 9. If the defenders win this trick you are home free. You win their ♠ return with your ♠ A, then continue ♥s to drive out their last stopper while you still have the ♠ K as a dummy entry.

This won't work against good defenders, who will hold up on the first ♥ trick and win the second. Then when they continue ♠s you won't have another ♥ to return to dummy, so while you can use the ♠ K as an entry to establish the ♥s you will never get back to use the good ones.

Instead you should win the first trick with your ♠ A. Now when you attack ♥s a defensive holdup won't hurt you because you have TWO ♠ entries, the ♠ J by a finesse and the ♠ K.

So the ♠ finesse is an odds-on play to get a second dummy entry.

Deal 3

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 6
♥ Q 10 7 2
♦ 9 4 3
♣ K Q 8

9
7 9
15

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

5 ♦ by South

Lead: ♠ 10

♠ Q J 8 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ Q 10 8

♣ 9 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ —

♥ K 8 4

♦ A K J 7 6 5 2

♣ A 6 5

North

2 NT

4 ♦

Pass

♠ A K 7 5 4 3

♥ J 9 5

♦ —

♣ J 10 7 2

East

2 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

Dbl

3 ♦

5 ♦

3 NT would have been a lot easier, but you didn't get there. South is to play 5 ♦. West leads the ♠T.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 3

The good news is that you only have one loser to get rid of. The bad news is that there doesn't seem to be a good place to put it.

Unlikely as it seems, your best candidate for establishment is dummy's ♠ 8. West is marked with 3 ♠s, and having led the ♠T there is a good chance that he also has the ♠ 9. If so you can ruff it out.

Cover the ♠T with dummy's ♠J, and when East plays one of his honors ruff in your hand. Play a trump to the ♦T, East showing out. Lead the ♠Q. East will be forced to play his other high honor, (if he

doesn't you would discard a loser), and you ruff again.

Back to dummy with the ♦Q and ruff the ♠ 2 with a high trump just to be safe. West drops the ♠ 9 on this trick.

Pull West's last trump and enter dummy with the ♥A and FINALLY discard a loser on the now established ♠ 8.

Here you needed ♠ T 9 x to be with West if you were to make the contract so you played for just that holding.

Deal 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 5 3

♥ J 7 6 4

♦ K J 7 3 2

♣ 10 5

♠ A Q J 10 9 7

♥ K 10 5

♦ A 5

♣ A K



♠ K 6 4

♥ A 9 3

♦ 8 6

♣ 9 8 6 4 3

♠ 8 2

♥ Q 8 2

♦ Q 10 9 4

♣ Q J 7 2

5
21 7
7

West

North

East

South

2 ♣

Pass

2 NT

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♦

Pass

6 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by West

Lead: ♠ 5

West is to play 6 ♠. North leads the ♠ 5.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

First pull trumps with the ♠ A and ♠ Q, both defenders following. Next you must establish dummy's ♣ suit to get rid of one of your losers. If the suit splits 3-3 that will be easy since you have two dummy entries, one to get there to ruff the third ♣ and the other to get there to enjoy playing the winners. But ♣s will probably split 4-2 so the two entries won't be enough. Here's how to make the defenders help you establish the suit.

After pulling trumps, play the ♣ A K, then ♦ A. Next exit with a small ♦.

to see the position.

The defender who won the ♦ trick has a problem. If he plays another ♦ you will get a ruff-sluff, and if he plays a ♥ you will play for the ♥ Q and ♥ J to be in different hands. So he will probably play a ♣.

You ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy's ♠ K and ruff the ♣ 8, establishing the ♣ 9 while you still have the ♥ entry.

This was a combination of Suit Establishment and End-play. The lesson on Eliminations contains a lot more of this type of hand.