

Deal 1

West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 9 8
♥ Q 10 3
♦ A 9 4 2
♣ 10 7

18
9 4
9

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ 5

♠ K 5 2
♥ A 9 6
♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q J 2



♠ A 7 6 3
♥ 8 4
♦ J 7 6
♣ A 9 6 4

North

1 ♣

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

3 NT

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

This sure looks like an opening 1 NT hand, except for one little thing - it is too strong. Make sure you open 1 NT ONLY with hands containing 15-17 points. For this one you open 1 ♣. Partner responds 1 ♠. What do you bid next?

Do not support partner's Major suit response with only 3 cards. It is good to raise partner's Major suit OPENING with 3 trumps because he guarantees a 5-card suit. As a RESPONSE he only promises a 4-card suit, so you should have 4 in the suit to give immediate support.

In fact you have a perfect bid. With a balanced hand and 18-19 points you open 1 of a suit, then jump in Notrump. Holding 18 points you bid 2 NT and partner raises to 3 NT.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♥ 5. West plays the ♥ Q.

Winner count: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 0 : ♣ 4 : Total = 7

You need 2 more winners and they will come from the ♦ suit once you have forced out the ♦ A. There is a problem though. When the opponents get the lead with the ♦ A they might cash 4 ♥ tricks. Of course if it is West who wins the ♦ A and if he doesn't have a ♥ to play then all will be well. So you don't take your ♥ A on the first trick, nor do you take it on the second trick. At trick 3 you have no choice so you win your ♥ A.

Now you can take your 4 ♣ tricks if you like. Then lead a ♦ honor. If they don't take their ♦ A on this trick you play another ♦ honor. One of the defenders will win this trick. If it is West you will make your contract, if it is East you will go down.

Notice that if East was the one who had the ♦ A then you would go down despite your hold-up play. This PLAN is not a guarantee - but if you follow it you will make the contract 50% of the time. If you don't follow it you will make the contract 0% of the time.

Deal 2

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 7 4
♥ 6 5
♦ A 7 5 2
♣ 8 5 2

13
4 13
10

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♦ A

♠ A Q J 2
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ 10 9
♣ A Q 4



♠ 3
♥ A K Q J 8 3
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 9 6 3

North

4 ♥

East

1 ♦

Pass

South

1 ♥

Pass

♠ K 8 6 5
♥ 9
♦ K Q J 4
♣ K J 10 7

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

With 12 points and an excellent suit you overcall 1 ♥.

Partner raises to 4 ♥ and everyone passes.

South plays 4 ♥. West leads the ♦ A and the defense wins two high ♦s then switches to a trump.

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

The two ♦ losers are already lost, so you must eliminate a ♣ loser. If West has the ♣ K then a simple finesse will win the day. That would be a 50% chance, right? WRONG! That would be a 0% chance. You and partner hold 23 HCP. West has already produced 4 HCP with the ♦ A, and if he had 3 more that would mean East opened with only 10 points. Very doubtful.

So face it, East has the ♣ K.

However, dummy has some nice ♠ cards. So you pull the last trump, play your ♠ 3 to dummy's ♠ A, then lead the ♠ Q. If East puts on his ♠ K (which you know he must have) you ruff it. Then enter dummy with a ♦ ruff and discard the small ♣ on the good ♠ J. If East doesn't play his ♠ K you discard your ♣ loser immediately.

This was a perfect example. After the opening lead it was easy to deduce that all the rest of the high cards had to be in the East hand.

Deal 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 2
♥ 9 8 7 4 3
♦ 10 9
♣ 8 5 4

18
2 10
10

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

6 ♠ by North

Lead: ♦ K

♠ A K 7 6 4

♥ A J 10

♦ 8

♣ K Q J 7



♠ 9 8 5

♥ Q

♦ A 7 6 4 3

♣ A 10 9 2

North

1 ♠

4 NT

6 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

3 ♠

5 ♥

Pass

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

You open 1 ♠ and partner jumps to 3 ♠.

What do you bid next?

Wow. It looks like you might have a great fit. You bid 4 NT and partner responds 5 ♥.

What do you bid next?

Partner shows 2 Aces so you bid 6 ♠.

North plays 6 ♠. East leads the ♦ K.

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

If trumps don't split 3-2 you will definitely go down 1, so assume they do split. You could finesse West once in ♥s, or use a ruffing finesse on East, but the cleanest approach is just to ruff two ♥s in dummy. Of course you must do this before you pull trumps.

Win the ♦ A in dummy. Play the ♥ Q to the ♥ A and ruff the ♥ T with dummy's ♠ 8. Play the ♠ 5 to your ♠ A and ruff the ♥ J with dummy's ♠ 9.

Return to your hand with a ♣ and pull another round of trumps with your ♠ K. Leaving the master trump out start playing ♣ winners. Someone may ruff with their master trump but that's the only trick they will get.

But that would have been all for nothing if North had not found the PLAN to make it.

Deal 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 3 2
♥ Q J 10 7 2
♦ J
♣ 9 8 6 2

13
8 6
13

West

♠ K 5
♥ A 9 4
♦ K 9 8 7 3
♣ K 10 5



♠ 9 7 6 4
♥ K 8
♦ A 10 6 2
♣ A Q 3

North

East

South

1 ♠

3 NT

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ Q

Pass

Pass

1 NT

Pass

1 ♦

Pass

Pass

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

With 13 points and 4 of partner's minor suit you may be tempted to say 2 NT or 3 ♦. Both these temptations should be resisted - your first obligation is to show a 4-card Major if you have one. As poor as the suit is, you still respond 1 ♠.

Partner comes back with 1 NT. (Hint: don't rebid the ♠s.)

Partner has 13/14 points and a balanced hand. You have 13 points and a balanced hand. How about 3 NT?

South would play 3 NT.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♥ Q.

Winner count: ♠ 0 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 3 : Total = 7

You need two more winners and you can almost surely get them in ♦s. In fact, if the suit splits 2-2 you could actually get three more winners. But

the danger here is that if they DON'T split 2-2 and if West happens to win the third ♦ he might lead a ♠. And that might lead to disaster!

Instead, you allow for the possibility that ♦s may not split evenly and you make sure West (the Danger hand) doesn't get the lead. Win the ♥ K in dummy. Play the ♦ A, (which happens to draw the ♦ J from East), then play a small ♦ and finesse with the ♦ 9. If East can win the trick then the ♦s have split 2-2 and your other 3 ♦s are good. Most importantly though, East cannot lead a ♠ without giving you a trick with your ♠ K. If the finesse works, you make 5 ♦ tricks.

Here the bad thing would be for West to get the lead and play a ♠. In this case you were able to avoid the bad situation by playing a suit differently than you might have done if there were no danger.