

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 8
♥ A 6 5
♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ K 9 5

17
10 3
10

West

Pass

ALL

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ 2

♠ K 6 3

♥ Q J

♦ A K 4 2

♣ A 10 6 4



♠ A 7 4

♥ K 10 9 8 3

♦ J 5 3

♣ Q 3

North

1 NT

2 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♦

3 NT

South's 3 ♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s.
North is to play 3 NT. East leads the ♠ 2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 5

Obviously you need to establish 4 ♥ winners and by driving out the ♥ A you can manage that handily. The problem is that dummy has only one sure entry, (the ♠ A), and the defenders may be good enough to hold up their ♥ A twice.

To assure the contract you should win the first trick in your hand with the ♠ K. Then play ♥ Q, ♥ J overtaking with dummy's ♥ K so you can continue establishing the suit while you still have that ♠ entry.

Deal 2

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 6 4
♥ 7 5
♦ 6 3
♣ A K 6 4 3

8
12 13
7

West
1 ♣
2 ♠
5 ♥
Pass
6 ♠ by East
Lead: ♥ K

♠ —

♥ 10 9 6 3
♦ K Q J 9 4
♣ Q 10 9 7



♠ 10 3
♥ K Q J 8 4
♦ 10 8 7 5
♣ J 8

North
Pass
Pass
Pass
Pass

♠ K Q 9 8 7 5 2
♥ A 2
♦ A 2
♣ 5 2

East
1 ♠
4 NT
6 ♠

South
Pass
Pass
Pass

East is to play 6 ♠. South leads the ♥ K.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

One of the two red losers must be discarded on dummy's ♣ suit. So you pull trumps, taking two rounds, with ♠ K and ♠ Q. Then play two top ♣s and ruff a ♣. When South shows out on the third ♣, enter dummy with a trump and ruff another ♣. Dummy's final ♣ is now established, so enter dummy with another trump and discard one of the red losers on the fifth ♣.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 6 4 3
 ♥ 9 7
 ♦ K 10 8 6 2
 ♣ 8 2

7
 6 10
 17

West

Pass

1 NT by South

Lead: ♦ 6

♠ 10 9 7 2

♥ A J 6

♦ 7 5

♣ Q 6 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 5
 ♥ K 5 4 3
 ♦ A 4 3
 ♣ A K 5

North

Pass

East

Pass

South

1 NT

South is to play 1 NT. West leads the ♦ 6, taken by East with the ♦ J. East next plays the ♦ Q on which West plays the ♦ 2. East plays the ♦ 9 which you finally win.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

You only need one more winner and you have several possibilities. The ♥ finesse might work, or the ♣s might split 3-3. But you need to consider the defenders winners also. They have already scored 2 ♦ tricks and will get 2 more as soon as they gain the lead. (The spot cards told you that West has a 5-card ♦ suit.) Plus they have the 2 top ♠s which they can take whenever they like. So if your play sets up just one more trick for them you will go down.

No, you must establish ♠s, the suit where they have 2 winners anyway. So you play a ♠ which West wins. He takes his 2 ♦s but you are now home free. When you gain the lead again you will get your ♠ winner established and only lose 2 ♠s and 4 ♦s.

If you had played 3 rounds of ♣s you would have gone down with the defenders winning 4 ♦s, 1 ♣ and 2 ♠s.

Only by establishing ♠s can you make the contract.

Deal 4

West Deals
None Vul

♠ K J 7
♥ A K 7 5
♦ A 8 7 3
♣ K Q

5
20 6
9

West	North	East	South
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by West			
Lead: ♠ 9			

♠ 9 8 6 5 3
♥ Q 9 3 2
♦ K 4
♣ 6 2



♠ A 4
♥ J 10 4
♦ Q J 10 6
♣ J 7 5 4

♠ Q 10 2
♥ 8 6
♦ 9 5 2
♣ A 10 9 8 3

West is to play 3 NT. North leads the ♠ 9, taken by South with the ♠ A. South next plays the ♠ 4.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 8

You only need one more winner and if ♦s split 3-3 you can easily establish a trick in that suit. But what if ♦s split 4-2? If the ♣ J falls you can get an extra ♣ trick. In fact, no matter how the ♣s are arranged you can establish your extra trick there.

First make sure that you win the second trick with the ♠ K, keeping dummy's ♠ Q for a later entry. Then play ♣ K, and ♣ Q overtaking with dummy's ♣ A. Then play the ♣ T, losing to the ♣ J but establishing the ♣ 9 while you still have the ♠ Q as an entry.

Deal 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 9

♥ J 10 8 4

♦ Q J 10 5

♣ 9 2

$$\begin{array}{c} 15 \\ 8 \quad 8 \\ 9 \end{array}$$

West

Pass

Pass

2 NT by North

Lead: ♣ K

♠ 7 6 3

♥ A K 5 2

♦ A 8 6

♣ A 7 5

♠ A 8 5 2

♥ Q 7

♦ K 7 4

♣ 8 6 4 3

North

1 NT

2 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

2 NT



♠ Q 10 4

♥ 9 6 3

♦ 9 3 2

♣ K Q J 10

North is to play 2 NT. East leads the ♣ K.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=3 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 7

You need to find another winner and the chances are not good. If either black suit splits 3-3 you can establish dummy's fourth card in that suit. But with East's opening lead of the ♣ K it is unlikely that ♣s will split. So your only slim hope is that the ♠s split 3-3 and dummy's fourth ♠ will be a winner.

Win the first trick and play a ♠ to the ♠ A. Then play another ♠. The defense will win and probably take some ♣ tricks. When they have finished and play a red card, you win it and play a third round of ♠s. If both defenders follow to all three ♠s then dummy's ♠ 8 is now a winner.

Next time they probably won't and you'll go down.