

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 3
♥ 9 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ A J 7 3

14
11 7
8

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 ♠
3 ♠

Pass
Pass

1 NT
4 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ A K J 8 6 2

♥ K 7 4

♦ 2

♣ K 6 5



♠ Q 4

♥ A 6

♦ 9 8 6 5 3

♣ Q 8 4 2

♠ 7 5

♥ Q J 10 8 5 3

♦ K J 7

♣ 10 9

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

An easy one. You bid 1 ♠. Partner responds 1 NT.

What is your next bid?

You're going to rebid your 6-card ♠ suit, but how high? The usual guideline is to bid 2 ♠ with 13-15 points, but jump to 3 ♠ with 16-18 points. You come in just over the line so you bid 3 ♠. Partner puts it in game.

North plays 4 ♠. East leads the ♥ Q, West playing ♥ 9.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 2 : Total = 4

You must eliminate one loser and the easiest one will be the ♥ which you can ruff in dummy. However, West's ♥ 9 looks a little ominous, particularly since East apparently has some length in the suit. Presumably you played the ♥ A on the first trick. Next lead the ♥ 6 from dummy, hoping West can't (or doesn't) ruff. He plays the

♥ 2. Win the ♥ K and play your ♥ 4, ruffing with dummy's ♠ Q. West is out of ♥s, but can't over-ruff. Now pull trumps and set up one ♣ trick. You lose 2 ♣s and a ♦, just as expected.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ A K 6 3
♦ 7 3
♣ A K 6

♠ 10 6 2
♥ J 10 9 5
♦ 8 2
♣ 9 8 3 2



♠ A K Q J
♥ Q 7 2
♦ 10 9 6
♣ J 7 4

1
14 13
12

♠ 9 5
♥ 8 4
♦ A K Q J 5 4
♣ Q 10 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Dbl	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
4 ♠ by East			
Lead: ♦ A			

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

When responding to a takeout double use these guidelines:
0-8 points: bid a suit cheaply
9-11 points: bid a suit with a jump
12 or more points: cue-bid the opponent's suit

With 13 points you cue-bid 2 ♦. Partner says 2 ♥.

You are forced to game, now you must find a suit. Partner suggested ♥s, you suggest ♠s. Partner agrees ♠s and bids the game.

East plays 4 ♠. South leads ♦ A, ♦ K, ♦ Q. North plays ♦ 8 then ♦ 2.

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

If you could ruff that ♦ then one of your ♦ losers would be eliminated - if North didn't over-ruff. But you know that North is going to over-ruff. So don't ruff it, discard dummy's ♣ 6 instead. Later you can ruff your ♣ loser in dummy.

Deal 3

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 4
♥ K 9 7 2
♦ J 9 3
♣ 10 9 7 6

12
4 11
13

♠ A 6 2
♥ J 10 3
♦ 8 5 4
♣ A K 8 5



♠ K 7 5 3
♥ Q 8 6 4
♦ A K 7
♣ J 2

♠ Q J 9 8
♥ A 5
♦ Q 10 6 2
♣ Q 4 3

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

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

You have 13 points so you will definitely open the bidding. You don't open with a 4-card Major and you don't open with a 2-card ♣ suit. So this is the one distribution where you open a 3-card ♦ suit. Partner responds 2 ♣ and it is your bid.

Be very careful! You are tempted to now bid 2 ♥ or 2 ♠. Don't give in to the temptation. That would be a REVERSE - bidding a second, higher-ranking suit at the 2-level. You should have at least 16 points to reverse. Besides, if you trust partner you don't need to bid either of those suits anyway. If he had a 4-card Major he probably would have shown it on his first bid. No, your next bid is clearly 2 NT. Partner raises to 3 NT and you pass.

South plays 3 NT. West leads the ♥ 2, East wins the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 5. West takes the ♥ K and plays the ♥ 7.

West leads the ♥ 2, East wins the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 5. West takes the ♥ K and plays the ♥ 7.

Winner count: ♠ 2 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 2 : Total = 8

You are glad the defense started with ♥s, that was a suit you would have had to play yourself. You need one more winner and your first thought may be that the ♠s are going to have to split 3-3. However, that happens only about 40% of the time so you keep looking. There is one more card that might be valuable, the ♣ J. If East holds the ♣ Q then you can make a trick out of the ♣ J.

You are already in dummy with the ♥ J so you lead a small ♣. If East plays low you will play the ♣ J which will hold the trick and become your 9th winner. If East plays his ♣ Q you will have the ♣ J for your 9th winner later.

And if East doesn't have the ♣ Q at all? then you STILL have the possibility of a 3-3 ♠ split.

Deal 4

North Deals ♠ —

None Vul ♥ A K Q 10 3

♦ 9 6 4 2

♣ 10 6 3 2 ♠ A 9 6 5 4 3

♥ 8 2 ♠ Q J 10 8 2

♦ K J 8 ♥ 9 6 5

♣ A K ♦ Q 10

♣ Q 7 4

♠ K 7

♥ J 7 4

♦ A 7 5 3

♣ J 9 8 5

West North East South

1 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Pass Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ by West

Lead: ♥ A

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

You open 1 ♠. North overcalls 2 ♥ and partner bids 4 ♠.

West plays 4 ♠. North leads ♥ A, ♥ K, ♥ Q.

Losers: ♠ 1 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 0 : Total = 4

You have already lost the 2 ♥s and you will definitely lose the ♦. So you cannot lose a ♠ as well. When you have 11 cards in a suit missing the King, the recommended play is to play for the drop. But the recommended play shouldn't be used on this hand because you know that South has the ♠ K. How do you know this? Because North has turned up with 10 points in ♥s, (the A K Q and a fifth one). If he held the ♠ K as well he would have had 13 points and a good suit and would have opened he bidding. But he didn't open, so he doesn't have the ♠ K.

Ruff the ♥. Play the ♦ 8 to dummy's ♦T. If South takes the ♦ A win his return and enter dummy

with the ♦ Q. When in dummy lead the ♠ Q and finesse South out of his ♠ K.