

**Deal 1**

South Deals	♠ Q J 9 8 6 3
None Vul	♥ Q 7 2
	♦ Q 8 4
	♣ J

♠ 10	♠ 2		
♥ 9 6 4 3	♥ A K J		
♦ 9 7 5	♦ J 10 6 3 2		
♣ K Q 10 6 3	♣ A 9 7 2		
	♠ A K 7 5 4		
	♥ 10 8 5		
	♦ A K		
	♣ 8 5 4		
West	North	East	South
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
1 ♠			
4 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♣ K			

(choosing between ♦s and ♥s).

West dutifully plays a ♥ and you take the next three tricks. Had he switched to a ♦ instead, South would have been able to discard one of his ♥ losers on North's ♦ Q.

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ K, dummy's singleton was played and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

West will look at your ♣ 9 and perhaps think for an instant that you want him to play another ♣.

But it will be a short instant because a look at dummy makes in absolutely clear to everybody that playing another ♣ could not help your side. Dummy has so many trumps that repeated ♣ leads would do nothing.

OK. If it's not an encouraging Attitude signal, what is it? Suit preference of course. Since it is a high spot card you are asking West to switch to the higher suit

**Deal 2**

South Deals  
None Vul

$\spadesuit$ A 10 6 $\heartsuit$ A K Q 4 $\diamond$ Q 10 3 $\clubsuit$ Q J 2  $\spadesuit$ 5 $\heartsuit$ 9 7 3 $\diamond$ A 8 7 $\clubsuit$ A K 9 8 6 4  <b>18</b> <b>11 5</b> <b>6</b> $\clubsuit$ 10 7 5	 $\spadesuit$ 8 3 $\heartsuit$ J 10 6 2 $\diamond$ K J 9 5 4 2 $\clubsuit$ 3  $\spadesuit$ K Q J 9 7 4 2 $\heartsuit$ 8 5 $\diamond$ 6
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West      North      East      South

Pass      4 $\spadesuit$       Pass      Pass

Pass

4 $\spadesuit$  by South

Lead:  $\clubsuit$  A

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the  $\clubsuit$  A. Seeing your  $\clubsuit$  3 he next played the  $\diamond$  A. What will you play on this trick?

When you have made your choice

Normally with this holding you would play the  $\diamond$  9 to encourage West to play a second  $\diamond$  through dummy's  $\diamond$  Q T.

But this time you really want him to take his  $\clubsuit$  K. So play the discouraging  $\diamond$  2 and hope he gets the message to go back to  $\clubsuit$ s. If he does play the  $\clubsuit$  K next it will win and he can then give you a  $\clubsuit$  ruff.

**Deal 3**

South Deals

None Vul

**♠ 9 8 5****♥ K Q 8 5 3****♦ 9 6 2****♣ J 4****8  
6 6  
20****West****♠ 6 4 2  
♥ 9 6 4  
♦ K Q 8 3  
♣ K 7 3****N  
W E  
S****♠ J 10 7 3  
♥ J 7 2  
♦ 10 7 5  
♣ A 9 5****♠ A K Q****♥ A 10****♦ A J 4****♣ Q 10 8 6 2****North****East****South****2 NT****Pass****3 NT****Pass****Pass****Pass****3 NT by South****Lead: ♥ 5**

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ 5, you put on the ♥ J, South won with the ♥ A. The second trick was ♦ A, ♦ 2, ♦ 3, ♦ 5. The third trick was ♦ J, ♦ 6, ♦ 8, ♦ 7. South then put the ♣ Q on the table.

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like South is trying to create an entry to dummy so he can cash the 2 ♦ winners? That's what he wants it to look like, hoping someone holds up their ♣ A.

But don't believe Declarer, believe your partner. On the first ♦ West played the ♦ 2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦ 6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And South must also have a third one, so he is up to some trickery with that ♣ Q.

So grab your ♣ A and return partner's ♥ suit.

**Deal 4**

South Deals	♠ K 9 8 6 4
None Vul	♥ A 6
	♦ Q J 3
	♣ A K 9

♠ 7 5	♦ 8 6 2	♣ 7 6 5 2
♥ 9 7 4 2		

17	♦ A Q J 2
o 7	♥ J 10 3
16	♦ A K 10
	♣ J 10 3

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
6 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♠ 5			

N		E
W		S
♠ 10 3	♦ K Q 8 5	♣ Q 8 4
♦ 9 7 5 4		

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. The 2 ♥ bid was a transfer. The 5 NT bid meant to choose either 6 ♠ or 6 NT. South liked the suit. Partner led the ♠ 5, won by South's ♠ Q. South pulls one more trump with his ♠ A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥ A on which he plays the ♥ 3 and West plays the ♥ 9. Then he leads dummy's ♥ 6 which you win with the ♥ Q. On this trick South drops the ♥ J and West the ♥ 2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe South is now out of ♥s then you shoud not play your ♥ K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe South when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In

this case an even number must be 4 which means that South has one more ♥. So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to West's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

**Deal 5**West Deals  
None Vul

♠ A Q 10  
♥ 9 2  
♦ 8 5 2  
♣ A K 10 6 3

**12**  
**13 2**  
**13**

	N		♠ 9 8 7 5 2
W		E	♥ 10 5
	S		♦ 9 7 4 3
			♣ Q 2

♠ K J 3  
♥ K Q 7 6 4 3  
♦ K 10  
♣ J 9

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣ A, East played the ♣ 2 and South the ♣ 9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣ 2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣ Q and ♣ J. If East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If East started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣ Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣ Q, then leads a ♪ back to your ♪ A Q.