Deal 1

	♠ 10 7		
North Deals	♡ 8 6 5		
None Vul	◊ K Q 7 3		
	♣ J 9 4 2		

♠ Q 8 5		♠ K J 9 2
♡ K 7 2	N W E S	♡ Q 10 9 3
◊ 8 6 4		◊ 10 9 5 2
♣ Q 10 7 5		♣ 6

♠ A 6 4 3
♡ A J 4
◊ A J
♣ A K 8 3

6
7 6
21

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3 NT by South

Lead: ♣ 5

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♣ 5. You play low from dummy and East plays the ♣ 6.

Winners: ♠ = 1 ♡ = 1 ◊ = 4? ♣ = 3
Total = 9

Although you have 4 ◊ winners, getting to the last couple might not be so easy. You can make 3 ◊ tricks simply by winning your ◊ A, then overtaking your ◊ J with dummy's ◊ Q. But you need that fourth ◊ winner. Can you get it?

Sure you can, by creating an entry in ♣s. It is likely from the opening lead, (and East's play of a small card), that West has led from ♣ Q T 7 5. If you win the first trick cheaply then you will still make your ♣ A K for three ♣ tricks in all.

So don't win cheaply, win the first trick with the ♣ A. Then unblock your ◊ A J. Next play ♣ K. (on which East discards), and a small ♣ toward dummy's ♣ J 9. You are sure to have a ♣ entry to dummy's ◊s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

You probably would have played the hand the same way you just did, unblock ◊s, then play ♣ A K and a low ♣ toward the ♣ J 9 trying to get a ♣ entry to dummy.

It is only because the ♣ opening lead gives you the chance for a Cheap-Trick that you are tempted to go wrong.

Deal 2

North Deals
None Vul

```
              ♠ 8 3
              ♡ J 7 4
              ◊ A 6 4 2
              ♣ 7 6 5 3
♠ Q J 10 9 5          ♠ K 7 4 2
♡ A 9 3        N      ♡ Q 10 8 6
◊ 9 8 3      W   E    ◊ 10 7
♣ 10 8         S      ♣ K 9 2
              ♠ A 6
    5         ♡ K 5 2
  7   8       ◊ K Q J 5
    20        ♣ A Q J 4
```

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ Q

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♠ Q. East plays the ♠ K, then the ♠ 2 when you hold up.

Winners: ♠=1 ♡=0 ◊=4 ♣=1 Total = 6

You are going to have to be pretty lucky to make this contract. You cannot touch the ♡ suit because a defender would take the ♡ A and it would start raining ♠s.

So you will have to get 3 extra ♣ winners, which means the ♣ finesse absolutely MUST work.

In addition to lucky, you are going to have to be pretty good, too. You will surely have to finesse the ♣s at least twice; that means you need two dummy entries. Can you find them?

Maybe in ◊s. Play the ◊ K, then ◊ Q, watching the defender's cards carefully. When both follow twice you know there is only a single ◊ left out, so you play the ◊ J to dummy's ◊ A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ◊ 5 to dummy's ◊ 6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Then your chance of success goes way down. You would have to find East with the doubleton ♣ K.

Deal 3
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A K Q 7 3
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 8 5 3
♣ 9 8

♠ J 8 6 2
♥ Q 9 8
♦ Q J 10 2
♣ 10 3

♠ 10 9 5 4
♥ K J 10 3
♦ 9 7 4
♣ 6 2

N
W E
S

9
6   4
21

♠ —
♥ A 5 2
♦ A K 6
♣ A K Q J 7 5 4

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♣ by South
Lead: ◊ Q

South is to play 6 ♣. West leads the ◊ Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♡=2 ◊=1 ♣=0 Total = 3

Partner's hand didn't turn out to be what you hoped for, you had in mind maybe the ♡ K and ◊ Q.

But this is what you got. First, be thankful West led a ◊ rather than a ♡. Second, see if you can find a way to fight yourself over to dummy and those three beautiful ♠s.

You have two possibilities for a ♣ entry, but you can only try one of them as you will see.

You can play a high ♣ and hope somebody plays the singleton ♣T. Then your ♣ 9 would be an entry. If this works you would probably make all 13 tricks, but the chances are very slim.

You can play a low ♣ to dummy's ♣ 8. Assuming a defender takes the ♣T you can win his return and enter dummy with the ♣ 9. This play is guaranteed to give you the entry and is the one you should choose.

When you are missing 4 cards the probability of a 3-1 split is about 50%.

But the singleton can be any one of four cards - in this case it can be the ♣T, ♣ 6, ♣ 3 or ♣ 2. So the chance of one of the opponents holding specifically the singleton ♣T is only one-fourth of 50%, about 12.5%.

Deal 4
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9
♡ Q 10 4
♦ 6 5
♣ K Q J 8 7 5 3

♠ A K J 7 4
♡ 3
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ 10 6 2

8
9   8
15

♠ Q 10 6 5 2
♡ 6 5 2
♦ A Q 7
♣ 9 4

♠ 8 3
♡ A K J 9 8 7
♦ K 10 4 3
♣ A

West	North	East	South
			1 ♡
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♡
Pass	4 ♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

4 ♡ by South
Lead: ♠ A

South is to play 4 ♡. West leads the ♠ A, then ♠ K.

Losers: ♠ = 1   ♡ = 0   ♦ = 3?   ♣ = 0
Total = 4?

This is the kind of hand that can get really messy if you aren't careful. You could ruff the ♠, then try to ruff some ♦s, but the defense can prevent you by leading trumps when you give up the ♦ tricks.

All in all a much better plan is to use dummy's ♣ suit after you unblock the Ace. The only flaw with that idea is that when you ruff the ♠, unblock the ♣ A, then play two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, there will still be a trump left out. And the defender might ruff a ♣ before you can take the discards you need. Do you see a way around this?

Do NOT ruff the second ♠ in dummy, just discard a ♦. If West plays a third ♠ you will ruff in your hand, then unblock the ♣ A, then pull trumps in 3 rounds ending in dummy. And run all those ♣ tricks. If West plays a trump or a ♣ the result will be the same. The defense can get one ♦ trick if they take it right now, but you still make your contract.

Deal 5
South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 7 4
♡ J 5 3
◇ 6 5 4 2
♣ Q 10 7

♠ 10 6 5 3
♡ Q 7 4
◇ 10 8
♣ J 9 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ K J 9
♡ 10 9 8 2
◇ K 9 3
♣ A 8 4

♠ A 8 2
♡ A K 6
◇ A Q J 7
♣ K 6 2

5
3   11
21

West	North	East	South
			2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3 NT by South
Lead: ♣ 3

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ♣ 3, East plays the ♣ A.

Winners: ♠=1 ♡=2 ◇=1 ♣=2 Total = 6

You have the possibility of one additional ♠ winner if West holds the ♠ K. However, ◇s is your best suit and if East holds the ◇ K you could gain all three winners that you need from that suit. But of course you need perhaps 2 dummy entries. Do you have them?

Well, you probably do. West's small ♣ lead probably indicates an honor, and with East playing the ♣ A you can be pretty sure that West holds the ♣ J. So by playing your ♣ K underneath the ♣ A you set up a second entry to dummy via the ♣ finesse.

Assume East now plays a ♡. Take your ♡ A and play a ♣ to dummy's ♣T. Lead a ◇ and finesse the ◇ J, which holds. Play another ♣ to dummy and finesse another ◇. Now play your ◇ A and smile when the ◇ K drops and your fourth ◇ becomes a winner.

By unblocking the ♣ K you were still pretty confident that you would get the two tricks, but the bonus was in the extra dummy entry your unblock created.

Deal 6
South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J
♡ A Q 6
◇ 8 4
♣ Q J 9 8 5 3

♠ 7 5 2
♡ 10 8 5 3
◇ A J 9 5 2
♣ 6

```
      N
  W       E
      S
```

♠ A 6 4
♡ 9 7 4 2
◇ Q 10 6
♣ K 7 4

12
5   9
14

♠ K 10 9 8 3
♡ K J
◇ K 7 3
♣ A 10 2

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3 NT by South
Lead: ◇ 5

South is to play 3 NT. West leads the ◇ 5, East plays the ◇ Q.

Winners: ♠=0 ♡=3 ◇=1 ♣=1 Total = 5

You must take the ◇ K right now or you might lose the first 5 tricks.

It's a shame about that solid ♠ suit, but if you try to win even a single ♠ they will grab the ♠ A and win enough ◇ tricks to set the contract.

So you are going to have to win a lot of ♣ tricks, and do so without losing the lead. You need dummy entries, and they must be in ♡s.

Win the ◇ K. Play the ♡ J to dummy's ♡ Q. Play the ♣ Q and when East follows with a low card let it ride. Still in dummy, play the ♣ J, again letting it ride when East plays low. Play one more ♣ to your ♣ A, picking up East's ♣ K this time.

The ♣ suit is ready to run, so play your ♡ K to dummy's ♡ A and take your ♣ winners. You took 9 tricks in all, the ◇ K, the ♡ A Q and all 6 ♣s.

Since it gave you all 6 ♣ tricks the sacrifice was well worth it.