



**Board 2**  
 East Deals  
 N-S Vul

	♠ 8 5 2		
	♥ 8 7		
	♦ Q 10 6 4		
	♣ A 10 7 3		
♠ J 3	♠ A 6 4		
♥ A Q 10 5	♥ K J 9 3 2		
♦ K 8 3	♦ 9 5		
♣ 8 5 4 2	♣ K Q J		
	♠ K Q 10 9 7		
	♥ 6 4		
	♦ A J 7 2		
	♣ 9 6		

	6		
10	14		
10			

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass
4 ♥ by East			
Lead: ♠ K			

You have no trump (♥) losers. You have two ♠ losers, of which one can surely be ruffed in Dummy even after drawing trump. You have one ♣ loser, about which nothing can be done. You have up to two ♦ losers. That totals 5 losers. We already see one ♠ loser can be ruffed in Dummy even after drawing trump, but that still leaves one too many losers (4). There are no further ruffing opportunities, and no promising long suit in dummy to discard losers on. The only hope is a finesse... draw trump, ending in hand, and play a low ♦ toward the King, hoping the ♦ A is in South's hand. South may take his ♦ A now, in which case your ♦ K will win the second round of ♦s. Or he may play low, in which case your ♦ K wins the trick, keeping your ♦ losers to one and making your contract. This is a 50/50 shot. Note if you play the ♦ K from the board, it will lose 100% of the time.





**Board 5**

North Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ Q 6	♠ A J 4	♠ 10 9 8 3 2
♥ 9 8 6 4	♥ K J 10 7	♥ A Q 5 2
♦ 8 2	♦ J 3	♦ K 6 5
♣ K 8 5 3 2	♣ J 10 7 4	♣ 9

11	♠ K 7 5
5 9	♥ 3
15	♦ A Q 10 9 7 4
	♣ A Q 6



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 NT	All pass	
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♠ 10			

You have 5 top tricks and opponents are attacking ♠s, which you have stopped 3 times (the ♠ lead into your ♠ AJ tenace means the ♠ J will become a winner). You need 4 more tricks. Diamonds clearly seem to be the best suit to work on, as you have great length and are only missing one honor. You have a finessing position, holding ♦ AQJ109 etc, missing only the ♦ K. Assuming both the ♦ and the ♣ finesses work, the ♣s could only provide at most 3 extra tricks, while the ♦s could provide 5 extra!

Since between the 2 hands you hold a sequence of cards below the missing card, you win the ♠ lead in hand and lead the ♦ J, planning to play low if East plays low. If the finesse loses to West, you will be slightly nervous if West switches to a ♥, but you will eventually get back in. As it turns out the finesse works, so now lead the ♦ 3 and finesse again, this time playing the ♦ Q if East plays low. Everyone followed suit to 2 rounds of ♦s, so that's 8 gone: the ♦ K is the only outstanding ♦, so now play the ♦ A to drop it. You will make your contract.

**Board 6**

East Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ 9 8 7	♠ 6 5 4 2	♠ A K
♥ A Q J 10	♥ 9 7	♥ 5 4 2
♦ K 4 2	♦ J 10 8 5	♦ A 9 6 3
♣ 7 6 3	♣ K J 5	♣ A 8 4 2

5  
10 15  
10

♠ Q J 10 3
♥ K 8 6 3
♦ Q 7
♣ Q 10 9




<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 NT	All pass		
3 NT by East			
Lead: ♠ Q			

You have 6 tricks off the top, and opponents are attacking ♠s, which you have stopped twice. You need 3 more tricks. There are poor chances for any extra tricks in ♣s or ♦s, so it looks like ♥s should be your working suit. If the ♥ finesse works, you'll get 3 extra tricks. If it doesn't work, you'll at least have promoted 2 extra ♥ tricks and may be able to scrounge up another somewhere.

All your ♥ honors are in Dummy, so you will have to play low ♥s from your hand towards Dummy, repeatedly. That means you have to get back to your hand multiple times. Luckily you have lots of entries in your hand (♠ AK, ♦ A, ♣ A).

**Board 7**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

	♠ A Q 3		
	♥ K 8 5		
	♦ A 10 8 2		
	♣ 8 7 5		
♠ 9 8 5 ♥ Q 10 6 3 ♦ J 6 ♣ J 10 3 2		♠ J 10 6 2 ♥ J 9 ♦ Q 9 7 3 ♣ A 9 4	
	♠ K 7 4		
	♥ A 7 4 2		
	♦ K 5 4		
	♣ K Q 6		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	
	3 NT by South		
	Lead: ♥ 3		

You have 7 top tricks and opponents are attacking ♥s, which you have stopped twice. You need 2 extra tricks.

There are no extra tricks to be had in ♠s, ♥s surely will not be rewarding.

Diamonds have finessing potential of a sort, but it's poor. You are missing not only the ♦ QJ, but also the ♦ 9.

Club offer the best hope: if the ♣ A is in East, you can get 2 extra ♣ tricks by playing low toward your ♣ KQ.