

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

7	♠ 8 7 6	♠ 8 7 6
17 10	♥ Q 10 8 7 6 5	♥ Q 10 8 7 6 5
6	♦ K J 5 2	♦ K J 5 2
	♣ —	♣ —

EW 3N; E 3♠; W 2♠; EW 3♣; Par -400

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
2 N	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 N	All pass

Lead: ♥ 4

South has a minimum, but decent weak 2 ♥ opener. West can overcall 2N showing 15-18 with a ♥ stopper. East bids 3 ♣ Stayman, West denies a 4-card major, and East bids 3N knowing they have at 24+ HCP combined.

North will lead a ♥ or ♣. Either way, West can take 4 ♠, 2 ♥, and 4 ♣ tricks to make +430, unless North finds an unusual ♦ lead to hold the contract to +400 E/W.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

	♠ K Q J 10		
	♥ 8 7 6 3		
	♦ A 9 7 2		
	♣ 8		
♠ 9 6 3	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A 8 5 4	
♥ A		♥ Q 9 5 4	
♦ 10 5 3		♦ J 8	
♣ A K J 5 4 2		♣ Q 10 3	
	♠ 7 2		
	♥ K J 10 2		
	♦ K Q 6 4		
	♣ 9 7 6		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	All pass		
Lead: ♠ K			

Uneventful auction, with East passing 2 ♣ as he is less than invitational. Declarer can count 6 club tricks, and two major suit aces for sure. What's the best way to build an additional trick? Ruff a diamond in dummy! This is a free extra 9th trick to get us a higher score. But, we have to play on diamonds BEFORE pulling trumps. Because our trumps are good, there is little risk in this. So, we win the opening lead and give up a diamond. We'll get back in and give up another diamond. Now we are all set to ruff a diamond in dummy for the extra trick.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

♠ A J 8 3	♠ A J 8 3
♥ 7 6 2	♥ 7 6 2
♦ Q 7 3	♦ Q 7 3
♣ Q 4 2	♣ Q 4 2

6	8	17	9
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EW 4N; EW 4♥; EW 5♦; EW 2♠; E 3♣; W 2♣; Par -630

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♦ ¹	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥ ²	Pass
2 N ³	Pass	3 N	All pass

1. Opening 1 NT is OK, but with most honors concentrated in the red suits, I like 1 ♦ better.
2. REVERSE! You are forcing partner to the 3-level if he wants to play your first suit, so you are showing 16+ HCP
3. Natural, stoppers in unbid suits.

Lead: ♥ J¹

1. Declarer has to guess in diamonds. Assuming he gets it wrong, he has 1 ♣, 4 ♦, and 3 ♥. Has to hope the ♠ A is onside so he can collect the K for a 9th trick. +400 E/W.

Board 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

♠ 9	♠ K 10 9 4
13 7	♥ A 3
11	♦ A 5 3 2
	♣ 8 5 2

♠ N	♠ J 5
W	♥ J 10 7 2
S	♦ K Q 8 6
E	♣ 7 6 4

NS 2♠; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; Par +110

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2 ♠	All pass	
Lead: ♦ K			

After a normal start to the auction, South is in "balancing seat" and the bid is at 2♥. When the opponents fail to even invite, they have fewer than 22 HCP (out of 40 total). Thus, you know partner isn't broke. South can make a takeout double - the shape isn't perfect, but we are non-vulnerable, so it shouldn't go too badly even if we don't find an 8-card fit.

South catches North with a 4-card ♠ suit and lose 1♠, 1♥, 2♦, and 1♣ for N/S +110.

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

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

♠ K Q 9 4	♠ K Q 9 4	♠ K Q 9 4
♥ A 10 8 6	♥ A 10 8 6	♥ A 10 8 6
♦ A 9 4	♦ A 9 4	♦ A 9 4
♣ Q 10	♣ Q 10	♣ Q 10

8	W	N	E	S
4	8	13	15	15

NS 3♠; NS 3♥; EW 3♣; NS 1N; NS 2♦; Par +100; EW 4♣×-1

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1♦	1N
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠
Pass	2N ²	Pass	3♠ ³

All pass

1. Transfer to ♠
2. Invitational (8-9 HCP) with 5 ♠
3. Minimum (15 HCP) with ♠ fit

Lead: ♦ 3¹

1. Declarer: Pull trumps and lose 1 ♣, 1 ♦, and 2 ♥ to make +140 N/S.

Board 6
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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

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

6	7	11	16
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NS 3♥; NS 2N; NS 2♠; EW 2♣; Par +140

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1N
Pass	All pass	Dbl	2♥
Lead: ♦ 2			

After the transfer, East makes a lead-directing double. South bids 2♥, confirming an 8+ card ♥ fit.

South - MAKE A PLAN! You know you are taking 2♠, 5♥, and 1♦ to make your contract. But what about overtricks? Remember - you can score an extra trick by ruffing a loser FROM the hand with the long trumps IN the hand with the short trumps. Here, play on clubs BEFORE pulling trump so you can ruff a ♣ from the North hand in the South hand and make 9 for N/S +140.

Board 7
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 6 3	♠ J 5 2	♠ K 8 7
♥ 9 4 3	♥ 10 6 5	♥ A Q J
♦ A J 9 4	♦ Q 8 7 2	♦ 10 6 5
♣ K 4 2	♣ J 10 5	♣ Q 9 8 3
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A 10 9 4	
	♥ K 8 7 2	
	♦ K 3	
	♣ A 7 6	

4
 10 12
 14

E 2N; W 1N; E 2♦; E 2♣; S 1♠; E 1♠; E 1♥; W 1♦; W 1♣; Par -120

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1 N	1 ♣
Lead: ♥ 2			All pass

When the auction gets to East - in the BALANCING seat - East can bid 1 NT showing 12-14, with a club stopper. This is the only time the 1N overcall is not 15-18. West is close to enough to invite, but with the flat shape and no texture, should pass.

On the ♥ lead, West can take 1 ♠, 2 ♥, 3 ♦, and 1 ♣ for E/W +90.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 8		♠ A K 4		♠ Q 9 5 3 2
♥ J 10 8 4 2		♥ A 9		♥ Q 6 3
♦ 5 4		♦ K Q J 6		♦ 8 7 2
♣ J 9 5 4 3		♣ A Q 8 6		♣ 10 2
	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">N W E S</div>			
		♠ J 10 7 6		
		♥ K 7 5		
		♦ A 10 9 3		
		♣ K 7		

23
2 4
11

NS 6N; NS 6♠; NS 6♦; NS 4♥; NS 4♣; Par +990

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦ ¹
Pass	2 N ²	Pass	3 ♣ ³
Pass	3 ♦ ⁴	Pass	6 N ⁵

All pass

1. Waiting
2. 22-24, Balanced
3. Stayman
4. No 4-card major
5. 33-35 combined HCP belongs in 6N

Lead: ♦ 2¹

1. Lead: try to be passive and not give up a trick against 6N and 7N contracts. Declarer has 4 ♣, 4 ♦, 2 ♥, and 2 ♠ tricks. If no ♠ lead at Trick 1, take a ♠ finesse to try for an overtrick. N/S +1440

Board 9
 North Deals
 E-W Vul

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

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

10	10
15	10
5	5

EW 4♥; EW 4♣; EW 2N; EW 2♦; EW 1♠; Par -620

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 N	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥	Pass	3N ²	Pass
4♥ ³	All pass		

1. Transfer to ♥
2. 10+ HCP, 5♥. Choice between 3N and 4♥
3. Would rather play in ♥ with a fit there

Lead: ♦ 7¹

1. Not an attractive hand to lead from - a ♥ or ♦ is OK. Declarer will lose 1♣ and 2♠ for +620 E/W.

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

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

♠ Q 10 8 2	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A K 7
N					
W E					
S					
♥ A K J 3 2		♥ Q 10 9 7			
♦ 8		♦ 7 4			
♣ Q J 7		♣ A 8 5 2			

♠ 9	♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ 5	♥ A K J 3 2
♥ 13	♥ 8
♣ 13	♣ Q J 7

NS 4♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +130

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠ ¹	2 ♦	1 ♣	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♦	2 ♠	Pass
		All pass	

1. Shows 5+♠ (with 4♠, make a Negative Double)

Lead: ♠ A¹

1. Declarer will lose 3 aces for +130 N/S.

Board 11
 South Deals
 None Vul

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

S 5♠; S 4N; N 4♠; N 3N; NS 3♥; NS 3♣; NS 1♦; Par +450

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 N
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	
Lead: ♣ Q			

After South rebids 1N, North has at least 10 HCP and wants to know about South's ♠ holding. So, he bids NEW MINOR FORCING to ask about opener's majors.

South shows 3-card ♠ support, and now North can bid 4♠. We cannot have a slam on this hand given that both hands are balanced and we have about 27-29 HCP combined.

E/W will lose 2 ♣ and 1 ♥ to make +420.

Board 12
West Deals
N-S Vul

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

N	
W	E
S	

♠ A J 9 3
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ 9 8 6 5
♣ 2

10		11
13	6	

EW 3N; EW 4♣; EW 2♥; NS 1♠; Par -400

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 N ¹	Pass
3 N ²	All pass		

1. Natural, invitational (10-12 HCP). Ideally we'd have a better ♠ stopper but with 4 of them it isn't too bad.

2. Even with a minimum, we have a clear source of tricks in NT.

Lead: ♥ J¹

1. I like safe leads vs NT, so I would lead a ♥ even though South bid 1 ♥. DECLARER - BEWARE - the ♥ K is your ONLY entry to the club suit after playing a small one on the ♣ J. Remember to win the ♥ lead in your hand, play the ♣ J, then go to dummy to collect the rest of the ♣ tricks. If you crash the J under one of the honors, East's 9 will be a winner. N/S can take 6 ♣, 1 ♦, and 3 ♥ for +430, unless E/W lead ♠, then +400 N/S.