

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

S 2N; N 1N; NS 2♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♥; NS 1♦;
Par +120: S 1N+1

North is Declarer and plays in 1 NT.

East may lead ♠ A, but when they look at dummy they can see that continuing ♠s will only set up tricks for Declarer. The recommended lead, or switch after ♠ A, is the top of the sequence ♥ J. This effectively surrounds the ♥ Q as West can wait until when Declarer plays the ♥ Q from dummy and play ♥ K on it to prevent Declarer from getting more than one ♥ trick.

Declarer plays on ♣s to force out the Ace and establish four tricks in that suit. This will allow them to make the 7 tricks required for their contract.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

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

EW 4N; EW 4♥; EW 3♠; EW 2♣; EW 1♦;
Par -430: EW 3N+1

West is Declarer in 3 NT.

North leads the top of their sequence ♣ K.

After winning the ♣ A, Declarer can see that they cannot make enough (i.e. 9) tricks for their contract without getting some tricks from the ♠ suit. So they play on ♠, starting with a small ♠ to the K (*play honour in short hand 1st*) and, after South takes their ♠ A, Declarer will have enough extra tricks to make their contract.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

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

NS 5N; NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 3♠; NS 2♣;
Par +460: NS 3N+2

South is Declarer in 3 NT.

West leads ♣ 10, top of a sequence.

Declarer should win the ♣ lead with the ♣ A or ♣ K in Dummy and play on ♦s to get extra tricks from that suit. Declarer should start with ♦ J (*honour in short hand 1st*). After the opponent takes the ♦ A, there will be 4 x ♦ tricks as well as 2 x ♣s, the ♠ A and 3 x ♥ tricks for 10 tricks for Declarer in total. When the ♥ J falls on the second round - there is also an extra trick so that Declarer can make 11 tricks, which makes 2 overtricks in 3 NT.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

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

EW 2N; EW 3♦; EW 2♣; EW 1♥;
Par -120: EW 1N+1

East is Declarer in 1 NT.


South leads ♠ Q, top of a sequence. North takes ♠ A and continues the ♠ 6 to establish the tricks in that suit for their partner.

When Declarer wins the lead with the ♠ K, they should play on ♦s, playing the ♦ A and another to the ♦ Q J 10 8. Once they lose to the ♦ K they have established an extra 3 tricks in that suit to go with 2 top ♣s the allow them to make 8 tricks for an overtrick in 1 NT.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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

EW 5♠; EW 4N; EW 4♥; EW 4♣; NS 1♦;

Par -450: EW 4♠+1


4 ♠ by W. North leads ♥ J.

Declarer should win the ♥ lead in dummy, so that they can start leading trumps leading towards strength from there to try the finesse of the ♠ K. They can lead a small ♠ from dummy and insert the Q or J from hand, and with the fortunate position of the ♠ K, this successful finesse will win the trick. As Declarer now expects that South has the K of trumps, they can cross to dummy with the ♦ A to repeat the ♠ finesse and avoid losing any trump tricks. This allows Declarer to make 11 tricks for an overtrick in their contract.

Board 7

South Deals

Both Vul

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

NS 6♥; N 5N; S 3N; N 2♠; NS 2♣; S 1♠; EW 1♦;

Par +1430: NS 6♥=

With a good fit and distribution, South upgraded their side's 24 HCP to play in 4 ♥.


West leads ♦ J (top of a sequence).

Declarer should win the opening lead with the ♦ A from dummy. Then they should try the trump finesse by leading the ♥ Q or ♥ 10, intending to run it to finesse the ♥ K, unless it is covered. Later they can lead from dummy towards hand in ♣s to finesse the ♣ K & lead ♠ J towards dummy to finesse the ♠ Q. With all of these finesses working, Declarer can make an overtrick in their contract.

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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

EW 3N; NS 3♠; EW 3♥; NS 1♦; NS 1♣;

Par -100: NS 4♠x-1


East is Declarer in 1 ♥. South leads ♣ K.

Once Declarer wins the first trick with the ♣ A, they should lead a small ♥ to the ♥ K in dummy. They should note that South shows out of ♥s, so they know that North has all the outstanding trumps, including the ♥ Q. So they should lead a ♥ back to their hand through North's ♥ Q and win the trick cheaply with a lower ♥. This is a "marked finesse" of the ♥ Q. After that they need to lead a small ♦ from hand to the ♦ Q in dummy to repeat the ♥ finesse and avoid any trump losers. This allows Declarer to make 9 tricks.

Board 8

West Deals

None Vul

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

NS 6♠; NS 4N; NS 5♦; NS 2♥; NS 3♣;

Par +980: NS 6♠=

With a suit fit and good distribution, North upgraded their side's 24 HCP to play in 4 ♠.

East leads the top of their sequence ♥ Q.

After winning the opening lead, Declarer should draw trumps attempting to avoid any losers by trying the finesse of the ♠ Q by leading towards the ♠ AJ1043 and inserting one of the intermediate ♠s. As the ♦ finesse also works as well as leading towards the ♣ K, Declarer may make one or possibly 2 overtricks in their 4 ♠ contract.