

North Deals  
None Vul

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

♠ Q 4 3 2  
♥ 5 4 2  
♦ Q 6 5 2  
♣ K 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 7 5  
♥ K 7  
♦ 8 7  
♣ A J 10 7 6

♠ K 10 9  
♥ 9 8  
♦ A J 10 9 4  
♣ Q 4 3

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

After North opens 1H, East overcalls 2C with 13 total points and 5 good clubs. South continues 2D (10+ points and 4+ diamonds), and North rebids 2H (usually 6+ hearts, though occasionally only 5, and a minimum hand). South shows stoppers in the unbid suits with 2NT, and North passes with their minimal hand. Their alternative was to rebid 3H again – equal chances.


East leads either the 7 of clubs (4<sup>th</sup> best) or J of clubs (top of internal sequence, JT). West wins the K of clubs and returns a club to East's A. E/W will win 4 clubs, the A of spades, and the K of hearts.

		♠ 9 8	
North Deals		♥ A Q 6 2	
None Vul		♦ K 10 9	
		♣ K J 9 2	
♠ K Q J 3 2	♠ 7 6 4	♥ K 9 7 3	
♥ 5 4	♦ 8 6 4	♦ 8 6 4	
♦ A 7 3 2	♣ A 7 4		
♣ Q 3			
	♠ A 10 5		
	♥ J 10 8		
	♦ Q J 5		
	♣ 10 8 6 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 NT
All pass			

North scrapes out a 1C opening bid and passes after South's weak 1NT (6 – 9 high card points).

West leads the top of a 3-card sequence in a long suit (king of spades). South will hold up two rounds and win the ace on the third round. If West had led the 4<sup>th</sup> best (3 of spades), South would win two spades and have time to set up the hearts (3 tricks) plus clubs or diamonds (two tricks) to make their contract.

In this case, when West wins the ace of diamonds, they'll cash the remaining spades (5 tricks so far). East will bid their time and win the ace of clubs and (if N/S leads hearts) the king of hearts. Down 1.

North Deals None Vul	♠ Q J 10 ♥ A 9 3 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ A 9 7 5		
♠ K 9 ♥ J 10 8 6 4 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ K J 4		♠ A 6 5 4 3 ♥ 7 5 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ 6 3 2	
	♠ 8 7 2 ♥ K Q ♦ Q J 10 9 6 ♣ Q 10 8		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
All pass			

With 10 high card points, South raises North's 1NT opening bid to game (3NT).

East will lead the **fourth-best of their long suit** (4 of spades), won by West with the king. East will win the spade return with the ace and lead a third round of spades (removing all spades from the other hands). When East gets in with the king of diamonds, they will score the remaining two spades. Down 1.

Look what happens if East instead leads the ace of spades, winning, and leads a small spade to the king. West has no more spades to lead. Once East wins their king of diamonds, N/S still have a high spade to stop the suit. They'll have time to set up the diamonds (4 tricks) plus their hearts (3 tricks) plus one spade plus the ace of clubs. They'll make their contract exactly.

		♠ A 7			
North Deals		♥ K Q 9 2			
None Vul		♦ 10 8 7			
		♣ K Q 8 3			
		♠ 8 6 4 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ K Q J 5	
		♥ 6 4		♥ A 10 8 3	
		♦ Q 3 2		♦ 9 6 5	
		♣ 9 6 5 2		♣ 10 4	
		♠ 10 9 3			
		♥ J 7 5			
		♦ A K J 4			
		♣ A J 7			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦		
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 NT		
All pass					

South made a risky bid of 3NT without a clear spade stopper. Luckily, North had the ace. But the contract depends on the opening lead.

After N/S bid three suits (clubs, diamonds, and hearts), West should consider leading the unbid suit (a spade). With four cards, they lead their fourth-best (2 of spades). Whenever East wins the king of spades, they'll lead toward North's weakness (diamonds). That will win three spades, one diamond, and the ace of hearts. Down 1.

Notice that if West weren't paying attention to the bidding, they might lead their fourth-best club instead. That gives South time to lead hearts and drive out the ace. Then, N/S wins their 9 tricks: 1 spade, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 4 clubs.