

Dealer: E  
Vul: EW

♠ Q962  
♥ A10  
♦ 862  
♣ K1054

♠ J3  
♥ K87653  
♦ AK9  
♣ 86

E	S	W	N
1NT (15-17)	2H	P	P
P			

West leads the S5 to East's SK and East switches to the DJ, won by South's DA. What's South's best plan to make 2H?

Dealer: E

Vul: EW

♠ Q962  
♥ A10  
♦ 862  
♣ K1054

♠ 10875  
♥ 42  
♦ Q74  
♣ Q972

♠ AK4  
♥ QJ9  
♦ J1053  
♣ AJ3

♠ J3  
♥ K87653  
♦ AK9  
♣ 86

E	S	W	N
1NT (15-17)	2H	P	P
P			

West leads the S5 to East's K and East switches to the DJ, won by South's DA. What's South's best plan to make 2H?

Dealer: E  
Vul: EW

		♠ Q962	
		♥ A10	
		♦ 862	
		♣ K1054	
♠ 10875			♠ AK4
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♦ Q74			♦ J1053
♣ Q972			♣ AJ3
		♠ J3	
		♥ K87653	
		♦ AK9	
		♣ 86	

E	S	W	N
1NT (15-17)	2H	P	P
P			

West leads the S5 to East's SK and East switches to the DJ, won by South's DA. What's South's best plan to make 2H?

Counting South's losers:

1. 2 spades,
2. 1 heart with a good 3-2 break in trumps,
3. 1 diamond, and
4. 2 clubs

With 6 losers, we need to get rid of one to make our contract. We could lead up to the CK, hoping the CA is to our left, but with the 1NT opening to our right this is unlikely.

The simplest thing is to lead the SJ immediately and lose it to the SA. This sets up the SQ in dummy for a discard. Note that you can't draw 2 rounds of trumps first because trumps are the entry back to dummy for the SQ. So the simple plan is – **BEFORE DRAWING TRUMPS, SET UP THE SQ TO THROW A SMALL DIAMOND, AND LATER LEAD UP TO THE CK.**

So:

1. Play SJ to East's SA,
2. Win the diamond continuation with the DK,
3. Play HK then HA ending in dummy,
4. Throw the small diamond on the SQ, and
5. Later lead up to the CK

Making 8 tricks.

Note the East defender's switch to the DJ at trick 2. It is often a good idea for the defenders to lead towards weakness in dummy.

♠ QJ2  
♥ 32  
♦ 6432  
♣ 6543

♠ AK1087  
♥ 654  
♦ AK5  
♣ AK

4S by South. West leads the CQ. What is the best general plan?

♠ QJ2  
♥ 32  
♦ 6432  
♣ 6543

♠ 96  
♥ K987  
♦ Q987  
♣ QJ10

♠ 543  
♥ AQJ10  
♦ J10  
♣ 9872

♠ AK1087  
♥ 654  
♦ AK5  
♣ AK

4S by South. West leads the CQ. What is the best general plan?

	♠ QJ2	
	♥ 32	
	♦ 6432	
	♣ 6543	
♠ 96		♠ 543
♥ K987		♥ AQJ10
♦ Q987		♦ J10
♣ QJ10		♣ 9872
	♠ AK1087	
	♥ 654	
	♦ AK5	
	♣ AK	

4S by South. West leads the CQ. What is the best general plan?

Counting losers:

1. No spades or clubs
2. 1 diamond loser
3. 3 hearts losers.

Hearts is where the problem is. We could try for a 3-3 break in diamonds to throw a heart on the 4<sup>th</sup> diamond, but the odds are against us (only a 36% chance). Note the heart shortage (a doubleton) in dummy opposite the losers. Much better to try to ruff the third round of hearts in dummy.

1. Win CA and lead a heart. Say East wins and leads a trump.
2. Win SQ and lead another heart. Say East wins and leads a trump.
3. Win SA. Ruff the 3<sup>rd</sup> heart.
4. Come back to hand with a club or diamond and draw trumps.

Making 10 tricks. Note that if you draw all the trumps first, you will lose 3 hearts and 1 diamond and go down.