

Counting The Opponents' Cards and Points

<div><div>♠ Q J 10 9 3 2</div><div>♥ K</div><div>♦ A J 3 2</div><div>♣ J 4</div></div> <div><div>♠ 8 7</div><div>♥ A Q J 6 5 4</div><div>♦ K Q</div><div>♣ Q 3 2</div></div> <div><div>♠ K 4</div><div>♥ 10 9 8 7</div><div>♦ 6 5 4</div><div>♣ A K 7 6</div></div> <div><div>♠ A 6 5</div><div>♥ 3 2</div><div>♦ 10 9 8 7</div><div>♣ 10 9 8 5</div></div>	<div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>North leads ♠Q and the defenders take two spade tricks. Who has ♥K? South passed North's opening bid but has shown up with the ace of spades. With ♥K too he surely would have responded so North is marked with that king. Declarer's only chance is to hope that it is a singleton. Without any clues the percentage line would be to finesse against ♥K. Here we play a heart to the ace and are rewarded when the king falls.</div>	West	North	East	South		1♠	Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass		
West	North	East	South														
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4♥	All pass																
<div><div>♠ A Q 8 7 6 5</div><div>♥ 3 2</div><div>♦ Q J</div><div>♣ K 10 7</div></div> <div><div>♠ - VOID -</div><div>♥ 9 8 7 6 4</div><div>♦ 10 8 7 4 2</div><div>♣ Q 9 8</div></div> <div><div>♠ J 10 4</div><div>♥ K Q J</div><div>♦ A K 9</div><div>♣ 6 5 4 2</div></div> <div><div>♠ K 9 3 2</div><div>♥ A 10 5</div><div>♦ 6 5 3</div><div>♣ A J 3</div></div>	<div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦⁽²⁾</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td></tr><tr><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>1 12-14 2 Transfer to hearts</div> <div>East leads ♥K which declarer takes and draws trumps. Who has ♣Q? East is marked with 12-14 for the opening bid but as declarer is missing 16 high card points it is not immediately obvious which defender has this card. Before committing to a play in clubs declarer should play on the red suits. He will discover that East started with ♠J, ♥KQJ and ♦AK. That sums to 14 hcps and places ♣Q with West. Cash ♣A and finesse ♣10.</div>	West	North	East	South			1N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♦ ⁽²⁾	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass			
West	North	East	South														
		1N ⁽¹⁾	Pass														
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All pass																	

<div><div><div>♠ 8 4</div><div>♥ 6 2</div><div>♦ A K Q 10 5 3</div><div>♣ K 10 7</div></div><div><div>♠ K Q 7 2</div><div>♥ 10 9 8</div><div>♦ 7</div><div>♣ A 8 6 3 2</div></div><div><div>♠ 9 6 5 3</div><div>♥ A 7 5 4 3</div><div>♦ 6</div><div>♣ Q 9 5</div></div><div><div>♠ A J 10</div><div>♥ K Q J</div><div>♦ J 9 8 4 2</div><div>♣ J 4</div></div></div>	<div>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td><td>Pass</td><td>1N⁽¹⁾</td></tr><tr><td>1 12-14</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>West leads a 4th best ♣3. Dummy plays low and East wins with ♣Q. He returns ♠9 (high from a remaining doubleton). West should duck (playing ♠2 to show the 5th club) to preserve communication. Declarer wins, either overtaking ♣J or winning in hand to play a diamond to dummy. He plays a heart and East must be alert. If he plays low declarer has nine tricks but East should count his own side's tricks. He knows from partner's plays that he has five clubs and ♣A, the latter clear because South has shown his known two clubs. East should rise with ♥A and return his last club. The defence has the necessary five tricks to defeat the contract.</div>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3N	Pass	1N ⁽¹⁾	1 12-14							
West	North	East	South														
Pass	3N	Pass	1N ⁽¹⁾														
1 12-14																	
<div><div><div>♠ 8 7 5 3</div><div>♥ K J 9 4</div><div>♦ A 4</div><div>♣ 5 3 2</div></div><div><div>♠ A 4</div><div>♥ Q 10 8</div><div>♦ Q J 10 9 8</div><div>♣ A K J</div></div><div><div>♠ K 6 2</div><div>♥ 7 6 5</div><div>♦ K 3</div><div>♣ Q 10 9 7 6</div></div><div><div>♠ Q J 10 9</div><div>♥ A 3 2</div><div>♦ 7 6 5 2</div><div>♣ 8 4</div></div></div>	<div>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>1N</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2N⁽¹⁾</td><td>Pass</td><td>3N⁽²⁾</td><td>All pass</td></tr><tr><td>1 17-18, game invitational</td><td></td><td>2 Upper range so accepts</td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>South leads ♠Q. Declarer may win with dummy's ♠A and try a diamond to his king. When North takes ♦A he should count East's points. South's initial lead marks that hand with ♠J. East has ♠K and has produced ♦K. Those 6 hcps means that partner must hold ♥A (else East has 10hcps, inconsistent with a 1N bid that shows 6-9). North switches to ♥4 and the contract is defeated when partner returns a heart. Four hearts and one diamond for a one-trick set.</div>	West	North	East	South	1♦	Pass	1N	Pass	2N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3N ⁽²⁾	All pass	1 17-18, game invitational		2 Upper range so accepts	
West	North	East	South														
1♦	Pass	1N	Pass														
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<p>♠ Q109 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 1032 ♣ AJ107</p> <p>♠ 653 ♠ 8742 ♥ A76 ♥ 543 ♦ AJ654 ♦ 987 ♣ 83 ♣ 954</p> <p>♠ AKJ ♥ Q1098 ♦ KQ ♣ KQ62</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2N⁽¹⁾</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1 19-20, balanced.</p> <p>West leads ♦5 to dummy's ♦2. East's ♦7 and declarer's ♦Q. Declarer leads a heart towards dummy. Two things should occur to West. First, why didn't South win trick one with ♦8 or ♦9? <i>Because partner holds those cards marking South with ♦KQ doubleton.</i> Secondly, with South holding 19 or 20 hcps, <i>partner can have, at most, one knave</i> (in spades). As partner cannot hold ♥Q declarer is not on a heart guess. West should rise with ♥A and cash ♦A. He can now cash a further three diamonds and defeat the contract.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	2N ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3N	All pass	
West	North	East	South										
	Pass	Pass	2N ⁽¹⁾										
Pass	3N	All pass											
<p>♠ KQJ ♥ 864 ♦ J72 ♣ 8754</p> <p>♠ 8743 ♠ 10652 ♥ A5 ♥ Q9732 ♦ 984 ♦ 65 ♣ KQ92 ♣ A6</p> <p>♠ A9 ♥ KJ10 ♦ AKQ103 ♣ J103</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1 ♦⁽¹⁾</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1N</td><td>Pass</td><td>3N</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>1 Might upgrade to 2N (three 10s and an excellent five card suit). The defence, with West on lead, would be more difficult.</p> <p>East leads ♥3 (4th best from a broken suit). Dummy's ♥10 loses to West's ♥A. West must decide what to do. He counts declarer's tricks - ♠A, two hearts (marked finesse if North doesn't hold ♥Q) and five diamonds (North will generally have two/three diamonds so the diamonds will run). If North has ♣A the contract is unbeatable as declarer would have nine tricks. West places partner with this card and underleads his ♣KQ. With the club pips as they are the defence takes four clubs and one heart and the contract fails.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1 ♦ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	1N	Pass	3N
West	North	East	South										
		Pass	1 ♦ ⁽¹⁾										
Pass	1N	Pass	3N										

<p>♠ - VOID - ♥ 7 6 3 2 ♦ K Q J 10 9 7 6 ♣ 8 7</p> <p>♠ A 6 ♠ K 7 ♥ A 5 4 ♥ K Q J 10 9 8 ♦ 8 4 3 2 ♦ A 5 ♣ Q 10 4 2 ♣ A K 3</p> <p>♠ QJ10985432 ♥ - VOID - ♦ - VOID - ♣ J 9 6 5</p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>5 ♥</td><td>4 ♠</td></tr><tr><td>6 ♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr></table> <p>South leads ♠Q and North ruffs. He returns ♦K. South is void in the suit (good news) but sadly, for North, he has no trumps either. Declarer knows the shapes of the missing hands. South started with nine spades and no red cards. South must hold four clubs. After drawing trumps declarer cashes ♠AK and confidently finesses dummy's ♣10. This wins and East's diamond loser can be discarded on ♣Q.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	5 ♥	4 ♠	6 ♥	All pass		Pass
West	North	East	South										
Pass	Pass	5 ♥	4 ♠										
6 ♥	All pass		Pass										
<p>♠ 6 4 ♥ K Q J ♦ A 5 4 2 ♣ 9 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ A K Q J 2 ♠ 10 9 8 7 ♥ 6 5 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ J 10 9 ♦ K 3 ♣ A K 2 ♣ Q J 7 3</p> <p>♠ 5 3 ♥ A 10 9 4 3 ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ 10 8</p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1 ♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>2 ♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4 ♠</td><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>North cashes ♥KQ and continues with a third round. Declarer ruffs and draws trumps. He cashes four clubs, on the fourth of which he pitches a diamond. He returns to hand and plays ♦J. The spotlight is on North. He knows West started with five spades, two hearts and three clubs. That means he started with three diamonds. He has thrown one diamond but still holds one other diamond. North should pay a low diamond smoothly on ♦J. ♦A will always win a trick but if West misguesses by not overtaking with ♦K he will be defeated (the defence will take ♦Q and ♦A to go with the two hearts).</p>	West	North	East	South	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass		
West	North	East	South										
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass										
4 ♠	All pass												