

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7 5 4
♥ K 3
♦ A 9 7 2
♣ Q J 10



♠ A 10 8 6 2
♥ A 10 4
♦ K 5
♣ A 9 6

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ 5

In a quick look at the 2 hands you can see that you only need to ruff one card in the dummy. Unless trump are 4-0 you can afford to draw trump before needing to ruff.

When drawing trump notice that the highest card lower than a winner is the ♠T in South's hand. As such you should lead small towards the ♠K just in case.

This example is from rpbridge.net by Richard Pavlicek.
<http://www.rpbridge.net/7c06.htm>

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 None Vul

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

4 ♠ by South

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♥ 5	3	J	<u>A</u>
2. S	♠ 2	Q	<u>K</u>	3
3. N	♠ 4	9	-	-

After you lead the spades West plays the ♠ Q on the first one and East plays the ♠ 3 followed by the ♠ 9. Which card should South play at trick 3?

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

♠ A 10 8 6 2		♠ A 10 8 6 2
♥ A 10 4		♥ A 10 4
♦ K 5		♦ K 5
♣ A 9 6		♣ A 9 6



4 ♠ by South

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♥ 5	3	J	<u>A</u>
2. S	♠ 2	Q	<u>K</u>	3
3. N	♠ 4	9	10	-

That's right. Since the ♠ Q and ♠ J are equal, the odds now favor finessing by a 2:1 margin.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ A Q 6 3
♣ A Q 7 4



♠ Q 9 8 7 6 2
♥ 5 2
♦ K 7 2
♣ J 9

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ Q

One of these days you're going to have better suits for your preempts. But today isn't that day. Now that we're here and ♥ A looks to be offside we're going to have to work to make our contract.

This hand is from rpbridge.net by Richard Pavlicek.
<http://www.rpbridge.net/4b00.htm>

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A 4
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ A Q 6 3
 ♣ A Q 7 4



♠ Q 9 8 7 6 2
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ K 7 2
 ♣ J 9

4 ♠ by South

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	<u>♥ Q</u>	3	7	2
2. W	<u>♥ J</u>	8	9	5
3. W	♥ 6	K	A	<u>♠ 2</u>
4. S	♠ 6	10	<u>A</u>	3
5. N	♠ 4	5	-	-

After ruffing the third round of hearts there's nothing to ruff in dummy's short hand so we are going to draw trump. The only sensible thing to do is cash the ace and the cards played are as shown. What card should South play at trick 5?

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

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

♠ Q 9 8 7 6 2
♥ 5 2
♦ K 7 2
♣ J 9

4 ♠ by South

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	<u>♥ Q</u>	3	7	2
2. W	<u>♥ J</u>	8	9	5
3. W	♥ 6	K	A	<u>♠ 2</u>
4. S	♠ 6	10	<u>A</u>	3
5. N	♠ 4	5	7	<u>K</u>

With the ♠ J and ♠ T being equal, the odds once again are 2:1 in favor of putting the jack in East's hand. Finessing low by playing the ♠ 7 is the percentage play.