

**Board 1**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul



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

NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3N
All pass			

OK. We should have been following along during the auction, but fortunately our partner's on lead. Still it wouldn't hurt to know something about the shapes and strengths so that we might know what to do and why partner led what they did.

First off, HCP. North limited their hand when they bid 3♦. They have invitational values. So something like 11 HCP. We'll determine the exact value momentarily if partner ever makes their opening lead.

Declarer accepted the invitation. That should mean they have at least 13 HCP, and since they didn't jump to 3♦ over 1♠, they have <19. So something like 13-18. That's a pretty wide range, but we'll have to narrow it down the hard way, by counting.

We have 10 HCP. So we should expect partner to have 1-6 HCP. That's a weakish hand. They might even try to setup our suits if they're extremely weak.

Next the shape. Dummy has at least 4 spades and 4 diamonds. Declarer has at least 5 hearts and 4 diamonds. Declarer should also really have a club stopper or else this wasn't a very logical bid.

From the auction, we know that declarer has at least five hearts and at least four diamonds.

**Board 1**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

♠ 10 8 7 3 2  
 ♥ K J  
 ♦ A Q 10 3  
 ♣ 8 7



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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 N
All pass			
Lead: ♣ 3			

All that prep work makes this hand easy once you ask the right question.

Partner led the ♣ 3. First off, they led low, so they probably have an honor in this suit. But the bigger inference is that since we have the ♣ 2 they have 4 clubs.

So what that make the club distribution?

4-2-4-3

What does that make declarer's pattern?

1-5-4-3

What should we do next?

Lead the ♠ A.

**Board 1**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

♠ 10 8 7 3 2			
♥ K J			
♦ A Q 10 3			
♣ 8 7			
♠ J 6 5	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">           N            W     E            S         </div>	♠ A Q 9 4	
♥ 10 7 5		♥ 8 3 2	
♦ 8 5 4		♦ 7 6	
♣ Q 10 6 3		♣ A 9 5 2	
		♠ K	
		♥ A Q 9 6 4	
		♦ K J 9 2	
		♣ K J 4	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 N

All pass

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

If you hadn't shifted right now, declarer would take 5 hearts, 4 diamonds and the ♣ K for 10 tricks.

If you shifted to a low spade, declarer gets 11 tricks.

Only by shifting to the ♠ A will you take 5 tricks and set the contract. You were able to do this by counting!

**Board 2**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

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



NS 4♣; EW 2♠; NS 2♥; Par +130

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♣
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

OK. Opening lead time. Still we've got an auction to decipher so let's think about that before we make our lead.

First HCP. North has at least 8 and not enough to look for slam so probably at most 12. South has enough to invite so 18 HCP with a balanced hand, but probably 14-16 if unbalanced. Given our spade length I might suspect unbalanced.

Partner's hand is wide ranging. on the low end they could have 0 HCP On the high end they might have 7. They never took a call, so they don't have both spade support and points.

OK. Now shape. We don't know much about north other than that they have 4 hearts. Good news is that we're about to see dummy so most of those questions will be answered. South has at least 3 clubs and 4 hearts. However if they are unbalanced, they will have at least 5 clubs.

What's your opening lead?

**Board 2**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

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



NS 4♣; EW 2♠; NS 2♥; Par +130

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
			1 ♣	
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	3 ♥	
Pass	4 ♥	All pass		
<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♠ A	9	6	10

You selected the ♠ A despite having a singleton because you don't expect partner to be able to win a trick quickly enough to give you a ruff. Besides you wanted to keep your options open after you saw dummy. You can probably still shift to a diamond if its right.

On your lead dummy hits with 11 HCP. That limits partner's hand to 0-4. Not much help there then.

On our lead partner played the ♠ 6. Since I've led the ♠ A partner should know that I have the ♠ AK and the ♠ Q is visible in dummy. So they should be giving me count not attitude. The ♠ 6 is the highest spot card. so either they have an odd number or they have ♠ J6 or just the ♠ 6. We can safely ignore declarer's pitch of the ♠ 10.

So lead the ♠ K and get some confirmation.

**Board 2**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

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



NS 4♣; EW 2♠; NS 2♥; Par +130

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
			1 ♣	
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	3 ♥	
Pass	4 ♥	All pass		
<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♠ A	9	6	10
2. W	♠ K	Q	3	4

OK. Partner had 3 spades. So now we can count.

What is the spade distribution?

6-2-3-2

What is the heart distribution?

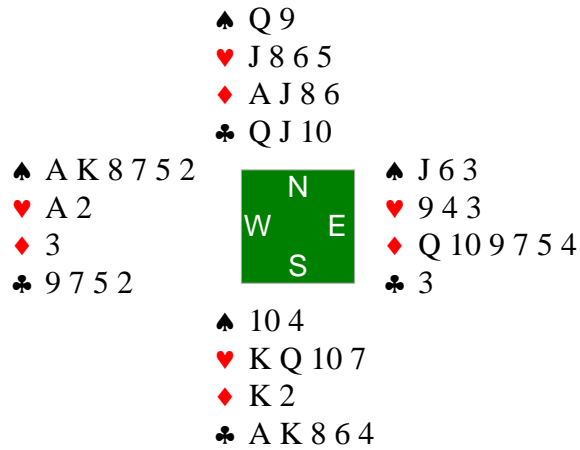
2-4-3-4

What is declarer's shape?

(Most likely) One of: 2-4-1-6, 2-4-2-5 or 2-4-3-4

Where can you find an extra trick?

**Board 2**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul



NS 4♣; EW 2♠; NS 2♥; Par +130

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
			1 ♣	
1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	3 ♥	
Pass	4 ♥	All pass		
<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♠ <u>A</u>	9	6	10
2. W	♠ <u>K</u>	Q	3	4
3. W	♣ 7	10	3	<u>K</u>
4. S	♥ 7	<u>A</u>	5	3
5. W	♣ 2	Q	<u>♥ 4</u>	4

Since declarer has at least 5 clubs, you can see 12 of them. Partner must be short in clubs and you have the heart ace. In fact if you made this deduction a trick earlier you could've switched to a club then and set it 2!

**Board 3**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul



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

NS 5♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 2♣; Par +400

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3N
All pass			

OK. HCP. North made an invitational bid so they have about 11. South accepted so they have 13-18.

We have 7 so partner has 4-9 HCP.

Now shape. South has 4 diamonds and 4 spades and a club stopper.

North has 4 hearts and 4 diamonds and some reason not to play NT. Either unbalanced or no club stopper.

**Board 3**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

♠ A Q	
♥ 9 8 7 6 3	
♦ K Q 10 2	
♣ 8 4	
<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 30px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ 7 6 4 2
	♥ Q J 10 2
	♦ 7 5
	♣ A 10 3

NS 5♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 2♣; Par +400

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3N
All pass			
Lead: ♣ 2			

OK. Partner led the ♣ 2. So they have 4 and probably an honor.

So

What is the the club distribution?

4-2-3-4

What is declarer's shape?

4-1-4-4 or 4-0-5-4

What should you do?

With the ♣ A and switch to hearts. And switch to the ♥ 2 specifically.

**Board 3**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

N	
W	E
S	

♠ K J 10 5
♥ K
♦ A J 4 3
♣ K 9 6 5

NS 5♦; NS 2N; NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 2♣; Par +400

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3N

All pass

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

If you don't switch to hearts declarer has 4 diamonds, 4 spades and a club for 9 tricks.

If you switch the the ♥ Q, declarer you only have the ♣ A and 3 heart tricks.

You need to switch to the low heart once you work out that declarer has at most 1 heart. It simply cannot hurt to cater to the singleton ♥ K or ♥ A. Especially since from HCP declarer is marked with one of those 2 cards.

**Board 4**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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



NS 2N; NS 3♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +120

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1N
Pass	3N	All pass	

HCP. Declarer has 12-14 and responder has 13-17.

That gives partner 0-5 HCP.

Shape.

Declarer is balanced with at least 4 diamonds and 2 or 3 hearts. You ask to see if they could have 4 spades on this auction and they could.

That means that dummy has 4 hearts and < 4 spades.

A heart lead is a fine passive lead, but you aren't convinced by all of that new fangled thinking yet and so looking at a good 5 card club suit you lead the ♣ 6.

**Board 4**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

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



NS 2N; NS 3♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +120

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
			1♦	
Pass	1♥	Pass	1N	
Pass	3N	All pass		
<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♣ 6	4	J	<u>A</u>

OK. Partner with the ♣ KJ would've played the ♣ K, so we know that declarer started with the ♣ AK.

**Board 4**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

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



NS 2N; NS 3♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +120

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
			1♦	
Pass	1♥	Pass	1N	
Pass	3N	All pass		
<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♣ 6	4	J	<u>A</u>
2. S	♥ 3	5	<u>Q</u>	8

When declarer is leading, partner should be giving count. This shows an odd number of hearts.  
 So what is the heart distribution?

2-4-5-2

**Board 4**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

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



NS 2N; NS 3♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +120

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
			1♦	
Pass	1♥	Pass	1N	
Pass	3N	All pass		
<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♣ 6	4	J	<u>A</u>
2. S	♥ 3	5	<u>Q</u>	8
3. N	♦ Q	9	5	<u>K</u>

Partner played the ♦ 9. So they have an odd # of diamonds.

So what is the diamond distribution?

2-3-3-5

What is declarer's shape?

Probably 3-2-5-3 (could be 2-2-5-4)

What are declarer's HCP?

♦ A, ♣ AK. So they have one of the ♠ KQ, but not both.

What should we do next?

**Board 4**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

N
W   E
S

♠ Q 10 4
♥ 9 3
♦ A 10 8 6 5
♣ A K 5

NS 2N; NS 3♦; EW 1♠; NS 1♥; EW 1♣; Par +120

	West	North	East	South
				1♦
	Pass	1♥	Pass	1N
	Pass	3N	All pass	
<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♣ 6	4	J	<u>A</u>
2. S	♥ 3	5	<u>Q</u>	8
3. N	♦ Q	9	5	<u>K</u>
4. W	♠ 3	9	<u>K</u>	4
5. E	♠ 8	10	<u>J</u>	6
6. W	<u>♠ A</u>	5	2	Q
7. W	<u>♠ 7</u>	♥ 6	♥ 2	♣ 5

Switch to the spade if you want to set it. This is a tougher matchpoint decision where you might not want to give up the overtrick. However, with  
 ♠ Kxx ♥ xx ♦ ATxxx ♣ AKx several players would call this 15 for the prime values and the 5th diamond and open 1N. So I think the odds favor hoping partner has the ♠ K rather than declarer.