

Declarer Overview

1

♠ AQJ1095
♥ 8
♦ 94
♣ AQJ5

♠ 6
♥ AK64
♦ K1062
♣ K1097

♠ 74
♥ J10975
♦ AJ53
♣ 63

♠ K832
♥ Q32
♦ Q87
♣ 842

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♥ J

The defense leads and continues hearts. Declarer trumps high (saving the ♠5). He draws 2 rounds of trump ending in dummy (saving a second dummy entry). He takes a club finesse and then crosses in trumps to repeat the finesse.

2

♠ J972
♥ Q103
♦ 107
♣ QJ105

♠ A10
♥ AK986
♦ K84
♣ A42

♠ 864
♥ 542
♦ AQJ3
♣ 863

♠ KQ53
♥ J7
♦ 9652
♣ K97

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♣ Q

Declarer has to lose 2 clubs and at least 1 heart (needing a 3-2 break). The spade loser can go on the diamonds. After winning the ♣A, declarer must play ace, king AND ANOTHER trump. If he doesn't play the third trump, North can ruff the 3rd diamond and declarer never gets the 4th diamond.

3

♠ AQ4
♥ 432
♦ QJ86
♣ KJ6

♠ J9762
♥ Q10
♦ A52
♣ 984

♠ K103
♥ J975
♦ 94
♣ 10753

♠ 85
♥ AK86
♦ K1073
♣ AQ2

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♠ 6

Declarer has 6 top tricks and can knockout the ♠A to get 3 more. He can't afford the ♠Q at trick one. If it loses (as it does), the spade continuation sets him. He plays LOW from dummy and can't be defeated.

4

♠ KJ9
♥ 864
♦ QJ109
♣ Q107

♠ 1062
♥ J9
♦ AK8542
♣ A4

♠ A743
♥ AK
♦ 73
♣ K8652

♠ Q85
♥ Q107532
♦ 6
♣ J93

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♥ 5

Declarer has 7 top tricks. He should test diamonds with the ace and king. If they split, he concedes a diamond and has an overtrick. When they don't split, he tries clubs and the 3-3 split sees him home. Ducking a diamond first is wrong, because it puts all the eggs in that one basket.

1

♠ A93
♥ Q10
♦ AK43
♣ AQ86

♠ 86
♥ A754
♦ QJ109
♣ J53

♠ K10752
♥ 82
♦ 752
♣ K107

♠ QJ4
♥ KJ963
♦ 86
♣ 942

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠ 5

Declarer must keep a spade entry to dummy's hearts. He wins trick one with the ♠A and knocks out the ♥A (West wins the second round). Declarer takes 4 hearts, 2 spades and AK-A for 9 tricks.

2

♠ J1098
♥ QJ8
♦ 432
♣ 1082

♠ Q542
♥ A32
♦ AK7
♣ AJ7

♠ AK6
♥ K764
♦ Q85
♣ K43

♠ 73
♥ 1095
♦ J1096
♣ Q965

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♦ J

West knows there are 33-35 HCP, so he should go directly to 6NT (no need for Gerber). Declarer wants to try both majors, so starts by ducking a heart. He then can try both majors and fall back on the club finesse if needed.

3

♠ AK32
♥ AK6
♦ AJ95
♣ 43

♠ 10986
♥ J874
♦ K43
♣ 106

♠ J7
♥ Q103
♦ Q1087
♣ KJ95

♠ Q54
♥ 952
♦ 62
♣ AQ872

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♠ 10

Declarer wins the spade in dummy and plays a club to his 7. This allows him to later set up the 5th club.

4

♠ Q6
♥ 10985
♦ J975
♣ 942

♠ AJ102
♥ AQ
♦ AKQ4
♣ KQ5

♠ 743
♥ K73
♦ 832
♣ AJ107

♠ K985
♥ J642
♦ 106
♣ 863

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	6 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♥ 10

Declarer has 11 top tricks. Instead of relying on 3-3 diamonds, declarer should first take a spade finesse. Then, when diamonds don't split, take another spade finesse.

1

♠ 982	♠ J10
♥ 654	♥ K9832
♦ J872	♦ 654
♣ 832	♣ AQ10
	♠ AK7654
	♥ Q
	♦ 1093
	♣ KJ9
	♠ Q3
	♥ AJ107
	♦ AKQ
	♣ 7654

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♠	Dbl
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♠ A

East opens 1♠ and South doubles. North is worth 3♥, invitational, and South is barely worth 4♥. After 2 tops spades, East should passively exit in a red suit. Declarer draws trump, strips diamonds and plays a club to the 10 to endplay East.

2

♠ AK85	♠ J1094
♥ 64	♥ A5
♦ A1098	♦ 4
♣ AKQ	♣ 987432
	♠ Q7632
	♥ 73
	♦ KJ32
	♣ 65
	♠
	♥ KQJ10982
	♦ Q765
	♣ J10

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3 ♥
Dbl	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♥ K

South leads to the ♥A and wins the next heart and shifts to the ♣J. Declarer tests trumps and then clubs, learning that North has 10 black cards and 2 hearts. Accordingly, North has at most 1 diamond, so declarer lays down the ♦K and then finesses with 100♣ assurance of success.

3

♠ K6	♠ QJ109
♥ AQJ109	♥ 65
♦ K832	♦ AQJ9
♣ J8	♣ AK3
	♠ 5432
	♥ 432
	♦ 10
	♣ 76542
	♠ A87
	♥ K87
	♦ 7654
	♣ Q109

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♥	Dbl	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♥ Q

South's 1NT response to the double shows approximately 6-10. North invites with 2NT and South bids the notrump game. West leads the ♥Q, won by South. The best chance for 9 tricks is to play diamonds -- but at once--all the entries to the South hand are needed to pick up 4 diamond tricks for the contract.

4

♠ KJ1032	♠ 8
♥ 93	♥ KQJ1042
♦ J4	♦ Q32
♣ J873	♣ 1092
	♠ Q976
	♥ 65
	♦ AK
	♣ AKQ65
	♠ A54
	♥ A87
	♦ 1098765
	♣ 4

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♥	Dbl	3 ♥
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♥ K

North opens with a weak 2♥ and after East's takeout double, South LAWfully raises to 3♥. West has enough for a free 3♠, which East raises to game. The ♥K is led, and South can envision the winning defense. He overtakes with the ♥A and returns his club singleton. He comes in with the trump ace and puts his partner in with a heart to get his ruff for down 1.

1

♠ 65
♥ AKQ107
♦ KQ
♣ K865

♠ AKJ82 ♠ 1043
♥ 92 ♥ 543
♦ 32 ♦ 8765
♣ QJ109 ♣ A32

♠ Q97
♥ J86
♦ AJ1094
♣ 74

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
2 ♠	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♠ 3

East leads LOW from 10xx in partner's suit. After cashing a second spade, West knows to shift and the ♣ shift beats the contract.

2

♠ 1098743
♥ K1098
♦ 4
♣ 87

♠ Q65
♥ A5
♦ A53
♣ AQ432

♠ KJ
♥ J32
♦ QJ1062
♣ KJ6

♠ A2
♥ Q764
♦ K987
♣ 1095

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♥ 4

Prefer majors to minors when on lead. The opponents won't have lots of hearts on this auction (but might have lots of either minor).

3

♠ KQ
♥ A9
♦ K6
♣ KQJ10976

♠ 762 ♠ 3
♥ K74 ♥ Q86532
♦ J98743 ♦ 1052
♣ A ♣ 832

♠ AJ109854
♥ J10
♦ AQ
♣ 54

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♥ 4

West leads a heart, his best chance.

4

♠ KQ109
♥ 543
♦ J10
♣ KQ97

♠ 87542 ♠ J
♥ AKQ8 ♥ J109
♦ 6 ♦ A9854
♣ A62 ♣ 8543

♠ A63
♥ 762
♦ KQ732
♣ J10

Dealer: West
E-W VulnerableH

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: H5

North should lead a trump, since he anticipates declarer will ruff spades in dummy. Only a trump lead beats it.

<-Makeable contracts->

C	D	H	S	NT
=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	-	1 1
S	-	-	-	1 1
E	1	-	1	- -
W	1	-	1	- -

Best Opening Leads:
vs North 1N: Any Card
vs South 1N: Any Card
vs North 1S: Any Card
vs South 1S: Any Card
vs East 1H: H-762
vs West 1H: H-543