

1. a) East's **1♥** opening bid implies at least 13 declarer points, at least five hearts, and less than five spades. The *fast arrival* jump to the **4♥** game limits the hand to 13-16 points without a singleton or a void and no interest in a slam.
 - b) West's artificial bid of a Jacoby **2NT** implies at least thirteen dummy points and at least four hearts.
 - c) **Lead the ♦4**. Your best chance to take a trick is a lead of the singleton in the hope that your partner has the **♦A** and will return a diamond to give you a ruff.
2. a) Your partner's not vulnerable **1♠** overcall implies at least 9 declarer points and at least five spades.
 - b) East's **2♥** overcall implies at least five hearts and the **3NT** rebid implies at least one, but probably two, spade stoppers.
 - c) **Lead the ♦J**. If you lead a spade to your partner, you will give declarer a free finesse and at least one spade trick. Since you have a nice five card diamond suit and opponents did not bid diamonds, your best lead is the top of the three card sequence.
3. **Lead the ♦Q**. It might be tempting to lead the singleton club. But you have two natural trump tricks so leading the club to get a ruff gains nothing. It is better to lead top of the sequence and hope your partner can help you establish a diamond trick or two.
4. a) Your partner's lead should be fourth highest in the longest and strongest suit. This lead implies that partner has at least one honor in hearts.
 - b) East used the Stayman Convention. Since West responded **2♦**, West has at most three hearts (and three spades). Using the rule of eleven:

$$11 - 6 (\text{lead}) = 5 - 2 (\text{higher in dummy}) = 3 - 2 (\text{higher in hand}) = 1$$
 we know that West has only one heart higher than the six which means your partner must have two honors in hearts.
 - c) Since West only has three hearts, partner has at least four more hearts with two of the top three honors.
 - d) Plan to play the **♥T** (*third hand high but only as high as necessary*) on the first trick. If the ten holds lead the **♥J**. When you win a trick with the **♠A**, you must lead a heart which should be the **♥J** if declarer took the first heart trick. Your partner can then take four heart tricks to set the contract.
5. a) You do have 10 declarer points with five diamonds but:
 - ✓ some of your high card points are weak
 - ✓ your diamond suit is weak
 - ✓ your partnership is vulnerable
 - ✓ your partner is already a passed hand
 - b) East's **1♠** response promises four or more spades. To support spades, West must have at least four to make an eight card spade fit. Because West did not open a five card major, West should have exactly four spades.

- c) **Lead the ♥K.** By the time you establish diamonds, opponents will be able to ruff. It is better to lead the top of the touching honors in hearts.
6. a) From the bidding you know your partner has at least three hearts so the King can not be a singleton or the top of a doubleton. The King should be top of touching honors because the lead would have been a low heart from ♥Kxx. So your partner should have the ♥Q and at least one spot.
- b) Your partner has at least three, the dummy has three, and you have five so West should have at most two hearts.
- c) Your ♦AQT traps dummy's ♦KJ9. If you can get your partner to lead a diamond, you can win a diamond trick and lead a heart to partner's ♥Q. Then partner can lead another diamond to give you at least one more diamond trick. Then you hope West started with three diamonds to give you a third diamond trick.
- d) **Play the ♥2.** Your partner knows you have five hearts so the ♥2 might discourage partner from continuing with the hearts. Then partner's obvious lead is a diamond through the ♦KJ9 on the board (three chances to develop a trick) rather than through the ♣AQJ4 (only one chance to develop a trick).
7. **Lead the ♦J.** From the bidding you know West has at least five spades so you are not likely to develop any spade tricks. Even though it is only three cards long, lead the top of the sequence in the unbid suit and hope your partner can establish some diamond winners.
8. a) **Lead the ♠A.** From the bidding you know that West should have at least four spades and at least three hearts. You also know that East has at least five hearts and exactly four spades. Since you have four spades, you know your partner should have a singleton spade. Cash the ♠A and lead a spade to give your partner a ruff.
- b) You hope the ♣K is on your right. After ruffing the spade, you hope your partner will see the weak clubs in the dummy on your left and lead a club through declarer strength toward weakness in the dummy.
9. **Lead the ♥2.** Lead low from three to an honor in partner's suit. If you lead the ♥Q partner will assume you led:
 - ✓ top of touching honors from ♥QJ or ♥QJx,
 - ✓ top of a doubleton ♥Qx,
 - ✓ or a singleton ♥Q.
10. a) Since West bid no trump over your spades, West should have the ♠K protected with at least two, and maybe three, spot cards.
- b) You now see nine spades and you expect West to have at least three, so partner either started with a singleton ♠Q or a doubleton ♠Qx.
- c) You should overtake the ♠Q with the ♠A. Then you can play the spades starting with the ♠J until the ♠K falls. With all those lovely diamonds in the dummy, you know that you will eventually regain the lead with the ♦K and you can run your remaining spades to defeat the contract. For example:

**PROBLEM 10
EXAMPLE**

NORTH						EAST - DUMMY	
♠ Q						♠ 9 3	
♥ T 8 7 5 3						♥ K 2	
♦ 6 3						♦ A Q J T 9 7	
♣ T 9 7 4 2						♣ A Q 8	
VUL							
WEST - DECLARER		East	South	West	North		
♠ K 7 6 4		1♦	1♠	1NT	Pass		
♥ A 9 6		3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass		
♦ 8 5 2							
♣ K J 3							
		SOUTH - YOU					
		♠ A J T 8 5 2					
		♥ Q J 4					
		♦ K 4					
		♣ 6 5					
		VUL					

11. a) The **1♥** opening bid implies at least five hearts, the **2♣** rebid implies at least four clubs, and the **3NT** game bid implies at least one stopper in diamonds.
- b) Because West rebid the spades, West should have at least five spades and because West did not support East's hearts or clubs, West should have less than three hearts and less than four clubs.
- c) **Lead the ♣9 or the ♦2.** The best lead is probably top of nothing in East's unsupported suit. It is tempting to lead fourth highest from one of your four card suits, especially the unbid diamond suit. But:
- ✓ East bid hearts so there is a good chance that East has the ♥AJxxx. Your ♥KQ is more valuable if hearts are led from any other hand.
 - ✓ East's 3NT implies a stopper in diamonds. If East has the ♦AQ, a diamond lead from your hand would give East two diamond tricks while a diamond lead from any other hand could limit East to one diamond trick.
12. a) Your partner should have led top of touching honors so your partner should have the ♣Q. Your partner probably also has one or two club spots because there are four missing clubs split between your partner and declarer.
- b) You have the ♠A so you know you can regain the lead and still have a trump. Overtake the ♣K with the ♣A and lead the singleton heart. When the ♠A takes a trick, lead a club to your partner's ♣Q. Your partner should understand that you had a good reason for your strange play and return a heart to give you a ruff which defeats the contract.

13. a) If your partner has any help in hearts, you might be able to establish three heart tricks to go with your two spade tricks. Plan to lead a heart each time you gain the lead.
 b) **Lead the ♥4.** Lead from your longest and strongest suit. Without an honor sequence, lead fourth highest.
14. **Lead the ♣K.** Your partner opened spades which, based on the bidding was *probably a light opening in third seat*. Since you have a better alternative, you should lead your suit instead of your partner's suit. After you see the dummy, you can decide if you want to continue with the ♣A or lead a spade to your partner.
15. a) The lead was fourth highest from the longest and strongest (unbid major) suit.
 b) When you lead and partner follows suit with a spot card, partner usually signals attitude toward your suit. The ♥2, a low card, should *discourage* you from expecting partner to help you establish the hearts. It also means that East probably has the ♥KJ.
 c) East probably has a majority of the clubs and is trying to establish tricks in that suit.
 d) When declarer leads and partner follows suit with a spot card, partner usually signals count in the suit. Since you see the ♣98765, the ♣4 could be the start of a high-low even count signal. But it could be a singleton.
 e) You are only going to take one club trick. Since a *holdup play* will not stop declarer from establishing the clubs, it will do no harm to take the trick now so that you can continue with a defensive strategy.
 f) Because partner played the ♥2 on the first trick, you are not likely to get any help in establishing hearts. Since dummy has diamond strength and declarer is trying to establish clubs, you should lead the ♠3, fourth highest in the unbid spade suit. Your only hope is that partner has honors in spades. For example (if you are lucky!):

PROBLEM 15 EXAMPLE		NORTH							
		♠ A K 7 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ T 8 7 4 3 ♣ 4 2							
WEST - DUMMY		East	South	West	North	EAST - DECLARER			
♠ 9 5 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ K Q J 6 ♣ 9 7 6 5		1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	♠ J 8 4 ♥ K J 8 ♦ A 9 2 ♣ K Q J T			
		SOUTH - YOU							
		♠ Q T 6 3 ♥ Q T 6 4 3 ♦ 5 ♣ A 8 3							