

No-Trumps Declarer Play Challenge Hands

Board: 1

♠ AK43
♥ AKQ
♦ 5432
♣ A2

♠ 87
♥ T9654
♦ 97
♣ QT87

♠ T965
♥ 87
♦ J86
♣ 9654

♠ QJ2
♥ J32
♦ AKQT
♣ KJ3

<i>W</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>S</i>
--	2NT	P	7NT!
//			

7NT by North.

East leads the ♠T and Declarer should combine her chances for the 13th trick.

Declarer has 4♠, 3♥, 3♦ and 2♣ and needs an **extra trick from the ♦T or the Club finesse. Play the Diamonds first** and if the ♦J drops then you have 13 tricks, otherwise try the Club finesse.

Board: 2

♠ AT975
♥ 5
♦ JT7
♣ Q875

♠ 32
♥ QJ42
♦ AKQ6
♣ KJ4

♠ KQJ
♥ AK3
♦ 5432
♣ A32

♠ 864
♥ T9876
♦ 98
♣ T96

<i>W</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>S</i>
--	--	1NT	P
6NT	//		

6NT by East.

Declarer has 2 Spade tricks after losing the Ace (do this first!), and with 4♥, 3♦ and 2♣ tricks she has 11 tricks and can make the 12th trick from either the fourth round of Diamonds or the Club finesse. Try the Diamonds first and fall back on the Club finesse if the Diamonds split poorly.

Board: 3

♠ 43
♥ A32
♦ 543
♣ AQJT9

♠ KQJ876
♥ 97
♦ J72
♣ K8

♠ T95
♥ QJT86
♦ T6
♣ 765

♠ A2
♥ K54
♦ AKQ98
♣ 432

<i>W</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>S</i>
--	--	--	1NT
2♠	3NT	//	

3NT by South.

West leads the ♠K and Declarer might hold up her Ace once, but only has one Spade stopper. Try the Diamonds first and if they split you can win 1♠, 2♥, 5♦ and the ♣A. **If the Diamonds don't split then you need the Club finesse, so try it!**

Board: 4

♠ QJT987
♥ KJ
♦ 95
♣ 865

♠ AK
♥ 654
♦ AK876
♣ 432

♠ 32
♥ AQ32
♦ 432
♣ AKJT

♠ 654
♥ T987
♦ QJT
♣ Q97

<i>W</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>S</i>
1♦	2♠	X	P
2NT	P	3NT	//

3NT by West.

North leads the ♠Q and Declarer has two stoppers, so can try to establish tricks here. The best try here is to test the Diamonds splitting 3-3 first, and if they don't, then try the Club finesse. **If you need to lose a Diamond trick to establish them, then it is safest to duck the first round.**