

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

	♠ K J 7 5		
	♥ A Q 6		
	♦ K 8 5 4		
	♣ Q 7		
♠ 6	♠ 10 8 4 2		
♥ J 10 7 4 2	♥ 9 8 3		
♦ J	♦ Q 9 6 2		
♣ A K J 9 5 2	♣ 10 6		
	♠ A Q 9 3		
	♥ K 5		
	♦ A 10 7 3		
	♣ 8 4 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♦
2 ♣	Dbl	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

Auction Commentary: When responder makes a Negative Double at the 2-level, it doesn't necessarily promise both majors. If responder has 10+ points, the double can show only one suit. If partner chooses the other one, responder can rebid NT. Since this Negative Double showed majors, if partner doesn't have the one you chose, then she must have the other one. Caution though, Responder! If you make a Negative Double when you do not have a hand that's strong enough to take a second bid, your double should show BOTH majors. Even with your weak hand, partner's now okay with whichever one they choose.

Opening Lead: ♣ A (promising the ♣ K)

Planning the Play: Declarer counts LOSERS in a suit contract. There are no ♥ or ♠ losers, but there are 2 ♦s and 3 ♣s as losers. 1 ♣ can be ruffed in the Dummy, but Declarer needs to take care to ruff HIGH in the Dummy! Remember that West overcalled the ♣ suit, which shows at least 5-6 pieces. This means that East is also short in ♣s. Don't let them overruff!

After ruffing high at trick 3, there are only 3 trumps left in Dummy. You won't find out about the bad trump split until the second round of trumps, at which point there will only be 1 left in the Dummy.

Let's say at trick #3 you ruff with the ♠ J. (There is now the ♠ K75 left in Dummy.) Next you start pulling trumps from the Dummy, playing the ♠ K, and now you can only finesse through East on the third round.

From the mouths of those who guess it right you will hear this phrase (often!):
 "I'd rather be lucky than good." :)

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

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

♠ Q 10 5 4
♥ 9 5 3 2
♦ Q
♣ 9 6 3 2



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	2 ♣	Dbl	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass
4 ♥ by West			

Auction Commentary: Continuing on the point made in hand #2, a Negative Double doesn't always promise both of the "other suits." When West rebids in the major that East does not hold, East is best to have tolerance for Opener's first bid suit. On this hand, East knows there is a double-fit in the red suits. That counts for a lot. Adding dummy points for the 2 doubletons, game is easy to find.

Opening Lead: ♣ K (Top of a sequence, and some might choose ♠ A from ♠ AK.)

Planning the Play: When you look at losers, you must choose a Master Hand and take count them from there. If you choose the hand with the long side suit, (the trumps having split evenly), you have one ♣ loser, 2 ♠ losers, and a possible ♦. You'll ruff a ♣, draw trumps, and plan to play the ♦s as "8 ever, 9 never." When the ♦ Q falls on the first ♦ trick, your contract is assured.

Takeaway: Negative Doubles are UNLIMITED. You just need to make sure you have at least enough points to bid on the level where you're planning to use it. The higher the level that you use it, your Negative Double is "card showing," and does not promise both other suits!

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

		♠ A K 10 8 5		
		♥ A 2		
		♦ Q 7 3		
		♣ 10 9 8		
♠ 9 7 3			♠ J 4 2	
♥ 6 3			♥ Q J 10 8 5 4	
♦ A K J 9			♦ 4 2	
♣ A Q 5 4			♣ K 3	
		♠ Q 6		
		♥ K 9 7		
		♦ 10 8 6 5		
		♣ J 7 6 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	
1 ♦	1 ♠	Dbl	Pass	
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	All pass	
2 ♥ by East				

Auction Commentary: East doesn't have enough points to bid their suit at the 2-level directly. After the Negative Double by East, and West shows 2 minors instead of trying a major, East can now bid 2♥ showing a long (5/6 piece) suit, and a weaker hand. (This bid would have the same meaning if West's rebid were 1NT instead of 2♣.)

Opening Lead: ♠ Q (top of partner's suit, showing either a singleton or doubleton)


Planning the Play: Counting losers, on that ♠ lead there will be 3 immediate and unavoidable ♠ losers, plus 2 ♥ losers, and possibly a third! On the 3 ♠ loser, East watches LHO discard a low ♦ or ♣. Looking at that dummy hand, North can see no future in the minors, and decides to continue with a 4th ♠.

Although this gives Declarer a ruff and a discard, (known by many as a "ruff and a sluff!"), when East ruffs with the ♥ 10 at trick #4, South must not over-ruff with the ♥ K. Do you see the possible trump promotion of the high spot - the ♥ 9?

After winning the ♥ A, North plays another ♠, and South can over-ruff with the 9♥ to defeat the hand.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

<p>♠ J 8 ♥ 8 7 6 4 ♦ 10 9 8 6 3 ♣ K 6</p>		<p>♠ A 7 5 2 ♥ A ♦ K J 4 ♣ A Q 10 4 3</p> <p>♠ Q 10 9 3 ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ K 6 4 ♥ K J 10 5 2 ♦ A 5 ♣ J 9 8</p>
<p><i>West</i></p> <p>Pass</p> <p>4 ♠ by North</p>	<p><i>North</i></p> <p>1 ♣ 4 ♠</p>	<p><i>East</i></p> <p>1 ♥ All pass</p>	<p><i>South</i></p> <p>Dbl</p>

Auction Commentary: Responder makes a Negative Double, promising exactly 4 pieces in ♠s and an unlimited number of HCP. Opener upgrades the hand, adding for that singleton ♥ A, and opposite even a minimum Responder hand, Opener bids game.

Opening Lead: ♦ A (Not leading ♣s, Opener's first suit, not leading trumps holding the ♠ K behind what might be the ♠ AQ tenace in Opener's large hand, and not leading ♥s from that broken suit to give away a trick... the ♦s look like the choice. Which card? It's tough, but leading high-low feels right.)

Planning the Play: Counting losers, there are 2 possible ♠s, 1 ♦ and 2 possible ♣s. After the ♦ A, East exits another ♦, which you will win in your hand. You need to make this plan and recognize that you need the ♦ Q as an entry to try the ♣ finesse from the dummy later.

Play the ♠ A and another spade. LHO must DUCK smoothly. Declarer now has a guess: if LHO hesitated before playing a small ♠, insert the ♠ Q. If Declarer ducked smoothly play the ♠ 10. Sometimes, like this one, you'll get it wrong. Now losing 2 ♠s and a ♣ later, and already having lost to the ♦ A, the contract will go down.

Takeaway: Nugget to remember when defending: When you see a Q-10 in dummy, and you know your King of trumps will always be a trick, DUCK the trump trick smoothly. There is no rush to win that trick, and you can give partner the chance to score if they hold the Jack! :)