

Holding Up (Rule of 7)

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 6 5 3 ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ J 10 9 8	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q J 4 2 ♥ 10 9 5 ♦ 4 2 ♣ K 7 6	♠ 8 7 ♥ J 6 2 ♦ K J 10 7 3 ♣ 5 4 3
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West *North* *East* *South*
 All pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT
 3 NT by North
 Lead: ♠ K

East should lead ♠ K.

North can see five top tricks (1 ♠ 3 ♥, 0 ♦, 1 ♣)

The diamonds provide four more tricks by driving out ♦ A. The danger is that when defenders win ♦ A, they can cash four spade winners. North must refuse to take ♠ A until the third round. Now play a diamond and hope West wins ♦ A and has no spade left to play. (If East has the ♦ A then the contract will fail)

The Rule of 7 says that you should duck twice (7 - 5 = 2)

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Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A 6 3 ♥ Q J 5 4 ♦ A K 3 ♣ A Q 5	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K Q J 10 5 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ J 9 4 ♣ 6 3	♠ 7 4 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ Q 8 7 ♣ J 9 7 4 2
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West *North* *East* *South*
 2 NT All pass Pass Pass
 2 NT by West
 Lead: ♠ K

North leads ♠ K.

East can see five top tricks (1 ♠, 0 ♥, 3 ♦, 1 ♣)

Clubs can provide the extra tricks. West should duck two rounds of spades, in case South has three. West knows from the points that South has all the remaining high cards, so plays ♣ A and ♣ Q (**lose to win**) to set up the clubs. The defence take two spades, two hearts and a club, but West has eight tricks.

The Rule of 7 says that you should duck twice (7 - 5 = 2)

Holding Up (Rule of 7)			
Board 3			
South Deals			
E-W Vul			
	♠ K 10 7		
	♥ 5 3 2		
	♦ Q J 10 9 5		
	♣ A 8		
♠ J 5 2	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ Q 8 6 3	
♥ Q J 10 9 4		♥ 8 6	
♦ K 4 3		♦ A 8	
♣ 4 3		♣ Q 10 9 7 5	
	♠ A 9 4		
	♥ A K 7		
	♦ 7 6 2		
	♣ K J 6 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ Q			

You must allow West to win the first trick, even though you have two heart stoppers. If you win trick one with ♥ A and then tackle diamonds, East will win with her ♦ A and lead another heart. You can win with ♥ K but when you play a second round of diamonds West will win with ♦ K and cash her remaining hearts.

The Rule of 7 says that you should duck once (7 - 6 = 1)

Holding Up (Rule of 7)			
Board 4			
West Deals			
Both Vul			
	♠ K J 5 2		
	♥ 8 4 3		
	♦ 6 2		
	♣ 10 8 5 3		
♠ A 10 4	<div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <div>N</div> <div>W E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	♠ 8 7	
♥ A 7 2		♥ 10 6 5	
♦ J 10 7 5		♦ K Q 9 8 4	
♣ A Q 6		♣ K J 2	
	♠ Q 9 6 3		
	♥ K Q J 9		
	♦ A 3		
	♣ 9 7 4		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
3 NT by West			
Lead: ♠ 2			

Although you have only one spade stopper, you do not need to duck at all. The ♠ 2 lead is 4th highest so the missing eight spades are split 4-4. The defence can make only three tricks in spades and the ♦ A

Win the lead with the ♠ A and then lead a diamonds to force out the ♦ A. The defence will take three spades tricks and you will win any continuation and cash out.

The Rule of 7 says that you should duck twice (7 - 5 = 2), but logic says otherwise!!


Mixed No Trump Deals (MB Revision)

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

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



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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 NT	All pass	
3 NT by North			

East should lead ♥ Q – the top of the sequence.

The correct play for West is to win ♥ A and lead a heart straight back. North wins the ♥ K; plays ♣ A, ♣ Q and then ♣ 5 to the king. By now all the clubs have been played so ♣ 9 and ♣ 8 make two more tricks. Now there are 3 spade tricks to take to make 9. When you lead ♠ K you must ‘overtake’ with the ace and play off the ♠ Q and ♠ J. If you do anything else East will pounce with the ♦ A and rattle off his heart winners.


Mixed No Trump Deals (MB Revision)

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

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



♠ 10 9 8 7 3	
♥ 9 6 3	
♦ 5 3	
♣ A 8 4	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 NT	All pass
1 NT by East			

South should lead ♠ 10

The correct play for East to win ♠ A and pass ♦ K, ♦ J and then a spade to the king to take ♦ AQ9, He makes 2 spades and 5 diamonds. If he mistakenly wins the first trick with the king and sets about the diamonds he will have no entry back to West to take the winners. As soon as North gets the lead he will take 5 hearts and 2 clubs.

Mixed No Trump Deals (MB Revision)

Board 7	♠ 9 8 3		
South Deals	♥ 4 3 2		
Both Vul	♦ K J 10 6		
	♣ 8 5 3		
♠ A 5 4 2		♠ J 6	
♥ K J 10 9 5		♥ 7 6	
♦ 8 2		♦ 9 7 5 4 3	
♣ 9 7		♣ A K 6 4	
	♠ K Q 10 7		
	♥ A Q 8		
	♦ A Q		
	♣ Q J 10 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 NT by South

West leads ♥ J – the top of the inner sequence which runs round to the queen.

There are only 6 top tricks so still some work to do. You can try to set up a club and a spade. To make 4 diamond tricks you must play the ace first then overtake the queen with the king. But you may be beaten if East and West can take three hearts, a spade and the two top clubs.

Mixed No Trump Deals (MB Revision)

Board 8	♠ Q J 10 9 8		
West Deals	♥ Q 8 4		
None Vul	♦ J 9		
	♣ Q 10 9		
♠ K 7		♠ A 3 2	
♥ A 9 6 3		♥ 10 5	
♦ A K Q		♦ 8 7 6 5 3 2	
♣ A 8 7 4		♣ 6 3	
	♠ 6 5 4		
	♥ K J 7 2		
	♦ 10 4		
	♣ K J 5 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	2 NT	All pass
2 NT by East			

North will lead ♠ Q

West must win with the king. Now play off ♦ A K Q. North and South are run out of diamonds leaving three diamond winners in East. You still have ♠ A to get to them so you can make 2 spades, 1 heart, 6 diamonds and 1 club for 10 tricks. Again if you win the first spade with the ace your entry to the long diamonds has gone and you will probably make only 7 tricks.

Mixed No Trump Deals (MB Revision)

Board 9	♠ K 9 7 4		
North Deals	♥ Q J 10 9 5		
E-W Vul	♦ Q J		
	♣ J 8		
♠ Q J 10		♠ A 8 2	
♥ K 6 4 3		♥ A 8 7	
♦ A 5 4		♦ K 8 7 3	
♣ A K 3		♣ 7 5 2	
	♠ 6 5 3		
	♥ 2		
	♦ 10 9 6 2		
	♣ Q 10 9 6 4		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	3 NT		
3 NT by North			

North leads ♥ Q.

Between clubs, diamonds and hearts there are 6 top tricks so West must try to make three spade tricks. He can do this by leading the ♠ Q from the West hand. If North covers with the ♠ K North plays low on the ♠ Q then you play low from East. When the queen wins you do the same thing with the ♠ J and finally the ♠ 10. If you cash the ♠ A first this won't work and North will make his king.

Mixed No Trump Deals (MB Revision)

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

South should lead ♥ Q.

You don't have to win a trick just because you can and it is correct play not to win ♥ A immediately. Save it for the third round of hearts. This will clear out North's hearts which means when he gets in with ♠ A he won't have a heart to return to South's heart winners. This way you make 3 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and a club.

Mixed No Trump Deals (MB Revision)

Board 11

South Deals ♠ 9 5
 None Vul ♥ A 10 2
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ A Q J 8 7 2

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

♠ K 6 3
 ♥ K Q 8 4
 ♦ A Q 4
 ♣ 10 9 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
All pass			
3 NT by South			

West leads ♠ Q.

This needs careful play. South must not take the ♠ K until the third round to run East out of spades. Now you play the clubs by leading the ♣ 10 and playing low from the North hand. East wins but cannot return a spade so you can win the return and take your 5 set up club tricks.

You might also make four hearts tricks if you play carefully and watch the cards played.

Mixed No Trump Deals (MB Revision)

Board 12

West Deals ♠ 6 4 2
 N-S Vul ♥ A K 7
 ♦ A K 6
 ♣ A 10 4 2

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

♠ K Q 5
 ♥ 6 4 2
 ♦ Q J 8 3
 ♣ 8 6 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
All pass			
3 NT by North			

East leads ♥ Q

North wins with the ♥ K. The contract is guaranteed! When North leads a spade towards the South hand East cannot prevent the ♠ K and ♠ Q making tricks. So North will wrap up 2 spades, 2 hearts, 4 diamonds and a club for his 9 trick target.