

# The Power of Deduction

by [Brian Gunnell](#)

This deal continues our theme of counting the opponents' high-card points.

**Board 13**  
 North Deals  
 Both Vul

♠	—
♥	9 8 5
♦	K J 8 4 2
♣	9 8 4 3 2

N	
W	E
S	

♠	A K J 10 9 8
♥	K 3 2
♦	9 6
♣	K Q

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠

All pass

This is not the most swashbuckling auction ever to appear in our *Daily Deal*, but the deal does provide a test for declarer's powers of deduction.

West leads the ♣J won by East's ♣A and it takes half a nano-second for East to find the ♥Q shift. You could duck hearts twice, hoping that West has the doubleton ♥A, but that would give East five hearts and he would be unlikely to sell out to 1♠ in that case. So, you hopefully play the ♥K, taken by West's ♥A. Two more hearts are won by East's ♥J10, then a club which you win. The ♠A and ♠K are cashed, followed by the ♠J to East's ♠Q.

Back comes a trump, you extract the last enemy trump, and decision time has arrived. You've already lost five tricks, and must avoid the loss of two diamonds if you are to make your contract. A diamond to the ♦J? Or a diamond to the ♦K? Do you have your guessing shoes on?

Guess? What guess? Let's reflect upon East's bidding. Oh, that's right, he didn't bid – which is the whole point of this deal. So far East has shown up with ♣A, ♥QJ, and ♠Q. That's 9 HCP. Can East also have the ♦A? Absolutely not! He passed originally, that ♦A would give him 13 HCP and too much for said pass. So, you lead a diamond towards the board, West smoothly plays low, and you rise majestically with the ♦K. Making seven tricks thanks to a little deduction.

The entire deal:

♠	—
♥	9 8 5
♦	K J 8 4 2
♣	9 8 4 3 2

♠	5 3 2
♥	A 7 6 4
♦	A 10 3
♣	J 10 6

N	
W	E
S	

♠	Q 7 6 4
♥	Q J 10
♦	Q 7 5
♣	A 7 5

♠	A K J 10 9 8
♥	K 3 2
♦	9 6
♣	K Q

**Post Script:** Upon winning the ♥A, West would have done better to shift fiendishly to a low diamond, putting declarer to the test in that suit before all the clues had been collected.