Introduction: These double dummy problems are prepared for the Gathering for Gardner 12 held in Atlanta from 30 March to 3 April 2016. Each problem asks you to show how south as declarer can make the indicated number of tricks. The problems come from various sources including the Encyclopedia of Bridge, Vanity Fair's Problem Book, and Bridge Squeezes Complete, by C. Love.

Happy puzzling from Dick Hess.

SOLUTION A
Alternate leading ♠'s from south and ♥'s from north, taking the trick as cheaply as possible each time to finesse your way to victory.

SOLUTION B
Alternate leading ♦'s and ♥'s, trumping the trick as cheaply as possible each time to cross ruff your way to victory.
C
Spades are trumps.
South is on lead.
Take 2 of 3 tricks.

SOLUTION C
Lead the ♠10 or the ♠Q. If west (a) ducks the lead: north plays the ♠2. (b) covers the ♠10 with the ♠J: north plays the ♠K and leads the ♠2. South covers east's play. (c) takes the ♠Q with the ♠A: west is end played.

D
Clubs are trumps.
North is on lead.
Take all 3 tricks.

SOLUTION D
North leads the ♠7 and south trumps with the ♦A. If west plays (a) the ♠3: south trumps a ♥ or ♦ in north's hand. (b) a ♥ or ♦: south leads the promoted winner and north overruffs if west ruffs.

E
The contract is in No Trump.
South is on lead.
Take all 4 tricks.

SOLUTION E
South leads the ♣10; north discards the ♥9 and east has no convenient discard.

F
Spades are trumps.
East is on lead.
Take 3 of 4 tricks.

SOLUTION F
East plays the ♥4 and south plays the ♥3 to produce the position shown. South leads the ♥5, guaranteeing two tricks in ♥'s.
G

The contract is in No Trump. South is on lead. Take all 4 tricks.

South plays the ♠A and west must play the ♦A. North plays the ♥2 and east is squeezed in 3 suits.

Solution G

H

Hearts are trumps. North is on lead. Take all 4 tricks.

North plays the ♦K and south plays the ♥9 to produce the position shown. South leads the ♦5 to north's ♠A to take a ♥ finesse for the last two tricks.

Solution H

I

Spades are trumps. South is on lead. Take 3 of 4 tricks.

South leads the ♠A and the ♥3 to put east on lead with the ♦Q to produce the position shown. Declarer will score two ♠'s after east's ♥ lead.

Solution I

J

Clubs are trumps. South is on lead. Take all 4 tricks.

Lead the ♠J. If west plays (a) a ♥: north plays the ♠A, leads a ♥, south ruffs and north's hand is good. (b) a ♠: north plays the ♠5. South leads the ♥2, north ruffs and south's hand is good.

Solution J
**K**
Hearts are trumps.
North is on lead.
Take 3 of 4 tricks.

**L**
The contract is in No Trump.
South is on lead.
Take 3 of 4 tricks.

**M**
Hearts are trumps.
West leads the ♠10.
Take 4 of 5 tricks.

**N**
The contract is in No Trump.
South is on lead.
Take all 5 tricks.

**SOLUTION K**
Lead the ♥A. If west plays (a) the ♦3: north plays the ♦3 and south plays the ♦4. (b) the ♦J or ♦10: north leads the ♦6 or ♦8 and south covers with the ♦Q only if east plays the ♦9.

**SOLUTION L**
South leads the ♦A. If west plays (a) a ♥: north gets two ♥ tricks. (b) the ♦Q: south leads the ♦7. (c) ♦A: south cashes the ♦K and leads a ♥.

**SOLUTION M**
North plays the ♥10 on the first trick and south plays the ♥Q to produce the position shown.
South leads the ♦9 to finesse in ♦'s and scores another ♥.

**SOLUTION N**
Lead the ♦A. East must toss a red A (Shown for the ♥A in the position at right). Whichever he does south leads low to north’s ♦K and north cashes the good red K, squeezing east for the remaining tricks.
O
Spades are trumps.
South is on lead.
Take all 5 tricks.

[Solution O]
Lead the ♦J to produce the position shown. On the lead of the ♠10 north plays the ♠6 and east must toss the ♦J. South leads the ♢Q to squeeze west for the final tricks.

P
The contract is in No Trump.
South is on lead.
Take 4 of 5 tricks.

[Solution P]
Lead the ♦5. (a) If east wins, his best return is a ♦ to south's ♦K. West discards a ♥, north a ♠.
South plays the ♠A; whichever suit west sheds, north keeps.
(b) If north holds the first trick he leads the 8♠, producing the position at right. West's ♥ return squeezes east.

Q
Clubs are trumps.
South is on lead.
Take all 5 tricks.

[Solution Q]
South leads the ♠A and east must toss a ♠ to produce the position shown. South leads the ♦J. If west plays (a) the ♦Q: north plays the ♦K and south's hand is good.
(b) a low ♠: north ducks and south plays the ♠8 to north's ♠K and south's hand is good.

R
The contract is in No Trump.
South is on lead.
Take all 5 tricks.

[Solution R]
South plays the ♥A. If west plays (a) the ♥6: south leads to the ♥K and finesses the ♥10 on the lead of the ♥3.
(b) a ♥: north plays the ♥3 and his hand is good.
(c) the ♥A: north plays the ♥3 and south leads the ♥K to squeeze west.
**S**
Hearts are trumps.
North is on lead.
Take 4 of 6 tricks.

**T**
The contract is in
No Trump.
South is on lead.
Take 5 of 6 tricks.

**U**
Spades are trumps.
North is on lead.
Take 5 of 6 tricks.

**V**
The contract is in
No Trump.
North is on lead.
Take 5 of 6 tricks.

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**SOLUTION S**
North plays the ♥A and then the ♥2.
South plays the ♥9 to produce the position shown with east on lead. The defense gets only one more trick.

**SOLUTION T**
Lead the ♥A. If west plays (a) a ♦: north plays the ♥K. South leads a low ♥ and north/south get the rest. (b) a ♦: north plays the ♥J. South leads the ♥2, west takes a ♦ and north/south get the rest.

**SOLUTION U**
Lead the ♥2 and ruff with the ♥A. If west plays (a) the ♥4: declarer draws trumps and cashes winners in ♥s and ♦s. (b) the ♥5: north takes two ♦ tricks and leads the ♥3 to endplay west.

**SOLUTION V**
North plays the ♥Q and east must play a ♥. South plays the ♥9 and west tosses a ♦. North then plays the ♥Q and ♥8 to produce the position shown with south on lead. South plays the ♥J and whoever takes the trick gets a game.
W
Hearts are trumps. South is on lead. Take all 6 tricks.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit K9 \\
\heartsuit K \\
\diamondsuit 4 \\
\clubsuit AQ \\
\spadesuit J10 \\
\heartsuit A8 \\
\diamondsuit 2 \\
\clubsuit 6 \\
\spadesuit J6 \\
\heartsuit K543 \\
\diamondsuit J \\
\clubsuit 97 \\
\end{array}
\]

SOLUTION W
Lead the ♥A and ♥Q, to produce the position shown. South leads the ♦3 and west must play a ♦ or ♠. East must discard the other suit. If east plays (a) a ♦: north leads the ♦9, south trumps, and leads a ♦ to north's good hand. (b) the ♦5: north plays the ♦K, and south trumps if east covers.

X
Hearts are trumps. South is on lead. Take all 6 tricks.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit 73 \\
\heartsuit 62 \\
\diamondsuit - \\
\clubsuit K10 \\
\spadesuit 95 \\
\heartsuit 54 \\
\diamondsuit - \\
\clubsuit Q \\
\spadesuit J106 \\
\end{array}
\]

SOLUTION X
Lead the ♦J and north plays the ♦8. Lead a ♦, which north trumps, producing the position shown. North leads the ♥6 and east must toss a ♥. South discards the ♥Q, and west must toss the ♦7. North now leads the ♦A and east is squeezed.

Y
Hearts are trumps. South is on lead. Take all 7 tricks.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit A \\
\heartsuit A2 \\
\diamondsuit A1032 \\
\clubsuit K3 \\
\spadesuit 6 \\
\heartsuit 7 \\
\diamondsuit 964 \\
\clubsuit 62 \\
\spadesuit 95 \\
\heartsuit 743 \\
\diamondsuit 54 \\
\clubsuit J106 \\
\end{array}
\]

SOLUTION Y
South leads the ♦A; north throws the ♦A. South then leads the ♥7 from the position shown. If west plays (a) the ♥K: north plays the ♥A and leads the ♥2. Then south takes two ♥ tricks, forcing east to un-guard ♥'s or ♥'s. (b) the ♥3: north plays the ♥2, south then leads the ♥4, north ruffs with the ♥A and leads the ♥2. South takes the ♥5 and east is squeezed.

Z
Hearts are trumps. South is on lead. Take 6 of 7 tricks.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\spadesuit 83 \\
\heartsuit J5 \\
\diamondsuit 642 \\
\clubsuit - \\
\spadesuit J6 \\
\heartsuit 5 \\
\diamondsuit 95 \\
\clubsuit 6 \\
\spadesuit 6 \\
\heartsuit 4 \\
\diamondsuit K4 \\
\clubsuit 9 \\
\spadesuit 5 \\
\heartsuit A4 \\
\diamondsuit Q76 \\
\end{array}
\]

SOLUTION Z
South leads the ♦6 and north trumps with the ♥5, leads the ♥J and south plays the ♥K. North leads a ♦ to finesse east's ♦O. South takes his second ♦ to produce the position shown. South leads the ♦4 to eventually give north the ♥8 and a third ♦.
**AA**
Spades are trumps.
South is on lead.
Take all 7 tricks.

**BB**
Spades are trumps.
South is on lead.
Take all 7 tricks.

**CC**
Hearts are trumps.
South is on lead.
Take all 7 tricks.

**DD**
Hearts are trumps.
South is on lead.
Take all 7 tricks.

**SOLUTION AA**
Lead the ♠4 and ruff with the ♠K. Cash the ♥A and lead the ♥3 to produce the position shown. Lead the ♥9. North plays the ♥2 and west must discard a ♦ and east a ♠. South leads the ♥J for the rest.

**SOLUTION BB**
Lead the ♦9. East must un-guard either ♦'s or ♦'s. The case for ♦'s is shown at right. South next leads the ♦8 and west must shed a ♦, north throws the ♦2 and east plays the ♦9. The lead of ♦AK squeezes east for the final tricks.

**SOLUTION CC**
Lead the ♠Q and north plays the ♠A. North then plays the ♥5. If east plays (a) the ♥3: west plays a ♦. North's ♠K is covered by south's ♥A to produce the position shown. The ♥8 is lead and west is squeezed in 3 suits. (b) the ♥6: south plays the ♥8 and leads the ♥4 to squeeze west in 3 suits.

**SOLUTION DD**
South leads the ♠3 to north's ♠Q. North plays the ♥K and ♥Q to produce the position shown. The ♥5 lead from north squeezes
**EE**
Hearts are trumps. 
South is on lead. 
Take all 7 tricks.

**SOLUTION EE**
Lead the ♦️4. North plays the ♥️10 and east discards the ♦️4. North plays the ♠️A and the ♥️3 to south's ♥️5 to produce the position shown. South leads the ♦️9 and north tosses the ♦️2. If west plays (a) a ♠️: south leads the ♦️6 for north to trump, promoting south's hand. (b) a ♦️: east sheds a ♦️. South now leads the ♦️J and west is helpless.

**FF**
The contract is in No Trump. 
South is on lead. 
Take all 7 tricks.

**SOLUTION FF**
South leads the ♦️K and north overtakes to produce the position shown. North plays the ♥️9 and south plays a ♠️. If west plays (a) the ♥️10: north plays the ♦️K and the ♥️5; west is squeezed in ♦️'s and ♥️'s. (b) the ♥️10 or ♦️J: north plays the ♦️K and then ♥️'s or ♦️'s to squeeze west out of tricks.

**GG**
Hearts are trumps. 
South is on lead. 
Take 3 of 7 tricks.

**SOLUTION GG**
South leads the ♦️4 and north plays the ♥️A and ♥️6, taken by east to produce the position shown. If east leads (a) the ♥️9: south plays the ♥️5. East leads the ♥️4, south plays the ♥️K and leads the ♥️8, assuring he wins the ♥️10. (b) the ♥️4: south plays ♥️K and leads the ♥️5. East plays (b1) the ♥️5: south plays the ♥️8. West must take and lead a ♠️ and south will score the ♥️10. (b2) the ♥️9: south plays the ♥️8, west plays the ♥️J and leads a ♠️ to let south score the ♥️10.

**HH**
Hearts are trumps. 
West leads the ♥️5. 
Take all 12 tricks.

**SOLUTION HH**
North plays the ♥️3 and leads the ♥️K and then the ♥️4, won by south's ♥️8. The ♦️5 from south and ♠️'s from north. If east ruffs then south over-ruffs, draws trumps and reaches a good north hand in ♠️'s. If east refuses to ruff west produces the position shown. If west ruffs, he is bettered, as east wins the ♥️J and ♦️K.
**II**

Hearts are trumps.

North is on lead.

Take all 12 tricks.

**SOLUTION II**

North plays the ♠K. If east plays (a) a ♥: south over-ruffs, plays the ♥A and takes a ruffing finesse in ♥'s to kill west's ♠K and a ♥ finesse for the rest.

(b) a ♦: south plays a ♥, ruffs out the ♠K as above, takes a ♥ finesse, plays his good ♥'s, crosses to the ♠A and ruffs a ♦. The ♦9 to north's ♠A ends with ♥AKJ over east's ♥Q63.

(c) a ♦: south plays the ♦9 and north leads the ♦8 to finesse east in ♥'s. South plays the ♦5 to north's ♦A and repeats the finesse in ♥'s if necessary. South then plays all his ♥'s, squeezing west in 3 suits.

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**JJ**

The contract is in No Trump.

West leads the ♦10.

Take 10 of 13 tricks.

**SOLUTION JJ**

Allow east to win the ♦10 and north takes the next two tricks with the ♦A and ♦J to produce the position shown.

North plays the ♦3. If east plays (a) a ♦: south plays the ♦Q and works on ♦'s, using south's ♦A entry first.

(b) a ♦: south wins with the ♦A and works on ♦'s, using north's ♦K entry first.

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**KK**

The contract is in No Trump.

South is on lead.

Take all 10 tricks.

**SOLUTION KK**

South plays the ♦Q and east must play ♦'s or ♥'s (we will assume ♦'s). North plays the ♦6. South now finesse ♦'s to get two ♦ tricks by north to produce the position shown. North leads the ♦8 to squeeze west and he must discard a ♥. South continues with the ♥J and ♦10 and north plays his ♦'s to squeeze east out of any tricks.

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**LL**

Spades are trumps.

West leads the ♣J.

Take 12 of 13 tricks.

**SOLUTION LL**

Take the ♣A and shed the ♣Q from south. Draw three rounds of trumps, shedding the ♣2 and ♣2 from north.

Lead the ♥Q; east must duck to produce the position shown. Lead the ♥5 toward
**SOLUTION MM**

North takes the ♦K and leads the ♦3. South cashes the ♦A. The next 6 tricks have south finessing west in ♥’s 3 times and north leading ♦’s for south to trump high twice. North takes the ♦A to give the position shown. North leads the ♦Q and south plays the ♦10. If east plays (a) the ♦6: west must play the ♦9; then the ♦Q from north spells the end. (b) the ♦3: north plays the ♦5 for south to ruff and north’s hand is good.

**SOLUTION NN**

North wins the ♠8 and leads the ♥3 to finesse the ♥Q. Two rounds of ♥’s produces the position shown. North leads the ♥8. If east plays (a) a ♠: north gets an eventual ♠ ruff. (b) a ♥: south trumps with the ♥A, cashes the ♥A and leads the ♥9 to north, who leads a ♥ for south to trump with the ♥K. South leads the ♥10 to north, who cashes the ♥8. (c) a ♠: whatever east returns south can set up his 4th ♥.