

The background of the entire cover is a collage of playing cards. The top half is a solid orange color with several cards floating in a 3D perspective. The bottom half is a solid blue color with the same card collage. The cards are semi-transparent and overlap each other. Visible cards include the Ace of Diamonds, the 6 of Clubs, the 10 of Hearts, and the 9 of Clubs.

AN HONORS eBook FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

Hugh Darwen

Double Dummy Problems in the 21st Century

Bridge Problems from 2005 to 2022

Volume Two: Difficulty Ratings 5-8

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ISBN: 978-1-77140-270-5

Cover Design: Olena S. Sullivan/New Mediatrix

1 2 3 4 5 6 28 27 26 25

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Preface

Repeated from Volume I: A double dummy problem is a puzzle in card play where the rules follow those of bridge and its predecessor, whist. You are shown all four hands and given a target in terms of the number of tricks to be won by either the North-South partnership (usually) or the East-West one, with either the nominated suit as trumps or no trumps. You must assume that each player can see all the hands, also that no player ever misses an available winning play.

A double dummy problem should have only one solution (barring insignificant variations in the order of play) and that is the case for all the problems in this book.

The collection in this book is derived from problems set for competitive solving at my website, Double Dummy Corner (www.doubledummy.net), between 2005 and 2022.

About this print edition: Unlike in Volume I, problem settings are not repeated in the solutions. Including them would have added another 81 pages, causing a significant cost increase. I have several older books of double dummy problems, none of which repeats settings in solutions.

Acknowledgements

Repeated from Volume I: Most of the composers of problems in this collection were still active at the time of writing. Biographical information about them is given at the aforementioned website. I have enjoyed not only receiving their contributions over the years but also their patience in working with me to draft the solutions (any remaining errors are, of course, my own, and will be reported, with corrections, at the website).

Hugh Darwen

Problems

As you will see, there are usually four problems on each page, each given with an attribution (usually, the composer's name) and the Difficulty Rating (DR) that was assigned to it when the competition closed, following suggestions from successful solvers. Footnotes give additional comments where necessary.

Hints of a kind are afforded in some problem settings, such as by asking the solver to consider the effect of a minor alteration to the hand layout, or using x and y symbols to stand for cards that the solver has to place correctly to make the problem solvable.

DR5 Problems

1. by Hugh Darwen, 2005¹

	♠ K32		
	♥ 87		
	♦ J32		
	♣ AQJ32		
♠ 10987		♠ QJ6	
♥ K		♥ 105432	
♦ 10987		♦ K54	
♣ K876		♣ 109	
	♠ A54		
	♥ AQJ96		
	♦ AQ6		
	♣ 54		

South to make seven no-trumps against any lead and defence.

2. by Ian Budden, 2005

	♠ A5432		
	♥ 7		
	♦ 932		
	♣ AJ63		
♠ K		♠ 9876	
♥ 864		♥ Q1053	
♦ KQ876		♦ J10	
♣ K1054		♣ 872	
	♠ QJ10		
	♥ AKJ92		
	♦ A54		
	♣ Q9		

South to make five no-trumps.
West leads ♠K.

3. by Hugh Darwen, 2006

	♠ Q32		
	♥ AQ732		
	♦ A9		
	♣ J92		
♠ K1087		♠ J6	
♥ KJ8		♥ 654	
♦ J87		♦ K543	
♣ K87		♣ Q654	
	♠ A954		
	♥ 109		
	♦ Q1062		
	♣ A103		

South to make four no-trumps.
West leads the ♦7.

4. by Hugh Darwen, 2006

	♠ none		
	♥ KQJ1032		
	♦ 10854		
	♣ K43		
♠ 7		♠ KQJ1098	
♥ none		♥ 987654	
♦ K976		♦ none	
♣ AQJ109876		♣ 5	
	♠ A65432		
	♥ A		
	♦ AQJ32		
	♣ 2		

South to make five diamonds.
West leads the ♣A.

¹ based on an original by Robert Lemaire, *IPBM*, June 1994

5. by Hugh Darwen, 2007

♠ A98765	♠ 43	♠ KQJ10
♥ 7	♥ A654	♥ QJ98
♦ J5	♦ 432	♦ Q76
♣ 9876	♣ QJ54	♣ A10
	♠ 2	
	♥ K1032	
	♦ AK1098	
	♣ K32	

South to make three hearts.

West leads the ♥7.

6. by Leslie Cass, 2007

♠ J5432	♠ Q8	♠ K97
♥ K932	♥ A876	♥ Q10
♦ A5	♦ KQJ98	♦ 10432
♣ 98	♣ J5	♣ K1062
	♠ A106	
	♥ J54	
	♦ 76	
	♣ AQ743	

West to lead and East-West to defeat
South's contract of three no-trumps.

7. by Hugh Darwen, 2008²

♠ 5432	♠ 1098	♠ KJ6
♥ 10987	♥ 432	♥ AQ6
♦ K7	♦ AQ5	♦ J10986
♣ 987	♣ QJ32	♣ K6
	♠ AQ7	
	♥ KJ5	
	♦ 432	
	♣ A1054	

South to make four spades against any
black suit lead.

8. by Steve Bloom, 2008

♠ Q976	♠ K	♠ J10
♥ 32	♥ Q10	♥ K987654
♦ 109	♦ KJ7654	♦ Q83
♣ KQJ104	♣ A632	♣ 9
	♠ A85432	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ A2	
	♣ 875	

South to make six diamonds.
West leads the ♦10.

² based on an original by W.H
Whitfield, No. 176 in *Double Dummy
Bridge*

10 Problems

9. by Hugh Darwen, 2009

♠ K432	♠ AQJ
♥ 6	♥ QJ873
♦ A102	♦ Q7
♣ A5432	♣ K87
♠ 109876	
♥ 9	
♦ KJ98	
♣ J109	
♠ 5	
♥ AK10542	
♦ 6543	
♣ Q5	

South to make two hearts against the lead of any diamond.

11. by Steve Bloom, 2009

♠ Q854	♠ A
♥ AQ5	♥ K43
♦ A10752	♦ Q643
♣ J	♣ A6543
♠ KJ732	
♥ J	
♦ K98	
♣ Q1098	
♠ 1096	
♥ 1098762	
♦ J	
♣ K72	

South to make three hearts.
West leads the ♥J.

10. by Steve Bloom, 2009

♠ KQJ102	♠ ?6
♥ 8432	♥ 765
♦ none	♦ QJ
♣ Q1093	♣ AK?654
♠ ?	
♥ KJ109	
♦ A98765	
♣ J?	
♠ A8543	
♥ AQ	
♦ K10432	
♣ 2	

South is declarer in six spades.
West leads a spade.

The four question marks represent the *seven* and *nine* of spades, the *seven* and *eight* of clubs. Which layout will set the slam? How is it made otherwise?

12. by Steve Bloom, 2010³

♠ A5	♠ 6
♥ A1052	♥ QJ43
♦ K92	♦ 107
♣ 5432	♣ AQJ1098
♠ J987	
♥ K876	
♦ QJ54	
♣ 7	
♠ KQ10432	
♥ 9	
♦ A863	
♣ K6	

South to make four spades against any lead and defence.

³ based on a hand from actual play, reported by Barry Rigal

13. by Hugh Darwen, 2011⁴

♠ A1065	
♥ J2	
♦ J10942	
♣ KQ	
♠ Q987	♠ K
♥ 6	♥ Q874
♦ 876	♦ AKQ53
♣ 105432	♣ AJ6
	♠ J432
	♥ AK10953
	♦ none
	♣ 987

South to make four hearts.
West leads the ♠7.

15. by Paolo Treossi, 2012

	♠ 765	
	♥ J432	
	♦ A5	
	♣ K432	
♠ QJ1098		♠ none
♥ KQ		♥ 1098765
♦ 109		♦ Q762
♣ 10876		♣ QJ9
	♠ AK432	
	♥ A	
	♦ KJ843	
	♣ A5	

South to make five diamonds.
West leads the ♥K.

14. by Hugh Darwen, 2012

	♠ J432	
	♥ KQ7	
	♦ 543	
	♣ 1098	
♠ 1096		♠ AQ87
♥ 432		♥ A85
♦ J1098		♦ 76
♣ QJ2		♣ A543
	♠ K5	
	♥ J1096	
	♦ AKQ2	
	♣ K76	

West to lead and East-West to defeat
South's contract of two no-trumps

16. by Vincent Labbé, 2012

	♠ A32	
	♥ AJ987	
	♦ 1083	
	♣ J9	
♠ J8654		♠ none
♥ 10		♥ Q654
♦ J975		♦ AQ64
♣ Q32		♣ 108765
	♠ KQ1097	
	♥ K32	
	♦ K2	
	♣ AK4	

South to make five no-trumps.
West leads the ♦7.

⁴ based on a hand played in a bridge club at Reading, Mass., sent by Ken Bloom

12 Problems

17. by Paolo Treossi, 2013

♠ J86	
♥ 543	
♦ 10543	
♣ AK2	
♠ Q	♠ K10932
♥ 87	♥ KQ106
♦ 9876	♦ KQ
♣ QJ10987	♣ 43
♠ A754	
♥ AJ92	
♦ AJ2	
♣ 65	

South to make three no-trumps.
West leads the ♣Q.

18. by Paolo Treossi, 2013⁵

♠ Q87	
♥ AQ7	
♦ Q732	
♣ A92	
♠ 10943	♠ K
♥ K1098	♥ 6543
♦ J98	♦ K654
♣ J10	♣ Q765
♠ AJ652	
♥ J2	
♦ A10	
♣ K843	

South to make five clubs.
West leads a low spade.

19. by F.Y. Sing, 2014

♠ AJ6	
♥ Q875	
♦ 1082	
♣ K86	
♠ Q	♠ K973
♥ K10	♥ J96432
♦ QJ65	♦ 97
♣ Q95432	♣ A
♠ 108542	
♥ A	
♦ AK43	
♣ J107	

South to make four spades.
West leads the ♠Q.

20. by Ian Budden, 2014

♠ Q	
♥ A10x32	
♦ J8y	
♣ QJ32	
♠ 6543	♠ K108
♥ Q9	♥ KJx54
♦ K942	♦ A10
♣ 654	♣ K97
♠ AJ972	
♥ 8	
♦ Qy53	
♣ A108	

South is in three no-trumps.
West leads the ♦2.

The cards marked *x* are the ♥6 and the ♥7, and the cards marked *y* are the ♦6 and the ♦7.

Place the red sixes and sevens so that the contract goes down and show how it makes with a different placement.

⁵ based on an unsound original by Kurt Bendix, *Sure Ticks* No. 82

21. by Ian Budden, 2014

♠ A98765 ♥ 9 ♦ J10 ♣ J1098	♠ K43 ♥ Kx5 ♦ Q6 ♣ 76543	♠ QJ10 ♥ Qx76 ♦ K987 ♣ KQ
	♠ 2 ♥ A8432 ♦ A5432 ♣ A2	

The contract is 4♥ by South. West leads the ♦J.

The cards marked *x* are the ♥J and ♥10. Which of the following is true?

- A. The contract succeeds regardless of the position of the ♥J and ♥10.
- B. The contract fails regardless of the position of the ♥J and ♥10.
- C. The contract succeeds only if North holds the ♥10.
- D. The contract succeeds only if North holds the ♥J.

Show how the contract succeeds or fails in each case.

22. by Paolo Treossi, 2015⁶

♠ none ♥ QJ32 ♦ KQJ1092 ♣ Q103	♠ KQ2 ♥ A7 ♦ A7654 ♣ A92	♠ J987 ♥ K98 ♦ 8 ♣ 87654
	♠ A106543 ♥ 10654 ♦ 3 ♣ KJ	

South to make six spades. West leads the ♦K.

23. by Steve Bloom, 2015

♠ K ♥ none ♦ J965432 ♣ 108765	♠ 2 ♥ A6543 ♦ K107 ♣ K943	♠ J109876 ♥ KQJ10987 ♦ none ♣ none
	♠ AQ543 ♥ 2 ♦ AQ8 ♣ AQJ2	

South is in five no-trumps. Can the contract be defeated on a diamond lead? Justify your answer.

⁶ based on an unsound original by Ernest Pawle, *Bridge Magazine*, 1952

Double Dummy Bridge Problems from 2005 to 2022 with Full Solutions

This is the second of two volumes forming a sequel to the author's *A Compendium of Double Dummy Problems* (Master Point Press, 2021), containing 158 double dummy problems, ranging from 'difficult' to 'fiendish' in difficulty.

The collection is derived from the monthly series of problems that have been presented at the author's website for competitive solving. It features as many as 24 different composers, several of whom made their first appearance at this website. The format follows that of the Compendium, with solutions being given in full. Difficulty ratings are based on suggestions from successful solvers, and Volume II covers the more difficult problems rated 5 to 8. Volume I covered problems ranging from 1 to 4.



HUGH DARWEN (UK) ran monthly solving competitions from 1966 to 2005 in, successively, *Bridge Magazine*, *International Popular Bridge Monthly*, and *Bridge Plus!* Since 2005, these competitions have continued, informally, at his website www.doubledummy.net.

