

COMPROMISING IN A PART SCORE

You are dealt the following hand as South:

South
 ♠ AQJ1093
 ♥ J92
 ♦ KQJ
 ♣ 7

You open 1♠ with this 14 HCP hand. Your partner responds 1NT and both opponents are silent. You should rebid 2♠. You have a minimum strength hand but your rebid promises 6 spades. What if your partner rebids 2NT?

Without thinking too much about it, you might assume he really wants to play in notrump and you either pass or raise to 3NT.

But his bid doesn't make sense as a natural bid. His first bid showed a weakish hand. If he doesn't like spades he could just pass. Maybe he has his own suit. Maybe he has two suits. The 2NT rebid is really a two suited bid showing 5-5 in the minors and less than 2 spades. You should take a preference for one of the minors and see what he does. If you rebid 3♦, he passes.

West leads the 8♥ and you get a look at your dummy:

	North ♠ ♥ Q65 ♦ A8763 ♣ QJ1092	
West		East
♥ 8		
	South ♠ AQJ1093 ♥ J92 ♦ KQJ ♣ 7	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

East wins the heart lead with the ♥K and takes his ♥A and ♣A. you notice that West played the ♣7, signaling he wanted a club return. East does lead another club. You must trump with your diamond honor. You pull two rounds of trump with the remaining diamonds. How do you continue?

Seeing that there is a 3-2 split in the opponents' diamonds, you get to the dummy's ♥Q with your ♥J. Now you pull the last trump with the ♦A. You play the ♣Q, knowing that West has the ♣K. There is nothing he can do. If he leads a spade you can trump it in the dummy and play the clubs. If he leads the K you can discard dummy's clubs on your good spades. A heart return leads to the same result. You make your contract.

By the way, 2NT goes down if played by North. Try it!

Here is the entire deal:

2	p	N North		W	N	E	S				
		♠	♥	♦	♣	P	1NT	P	P	1♠	2♠
		♠	♥	♦	♣			E East			
		♠	♥	♦	♣			♠	♥	♦	♣
		S South									
		♠	♥	♦	♣						
										3♦ S	NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/zjhabxo> , or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.