

♠♥♦♣ COUP EN BLANC ♠♥♦♣

This is a deal with a fancy-schmancy French name. But really, it is a very simple concept. You are dealt this hand:

S	South
♠	Q853
♥	6
♦	J93
♣	KQ1064

West opens 1♥ and your partner makes a takeout double. East raises his partner to 3♥ and it's up to you.

It's clear that clubs is your longest strongest suit. But that is not what your partner wants to hear. A normal takeout double (Type I) of 1♥ almost always promises 4 spades. Having a fit in a major suit is, by far, the better suit to bid. Since you are already forced to the 3-level, 3♠ is probably high enough.

That was not high enough for your partner. He raises you to 4♠.

West led the ♥A and this was the dummy:

N	North
♠	K962
♥	8
♦	AQ42
♣	AJ32

West's Lead: ♦A

S	South
♠	Q853
♥	6
♦	J93
♣	KQ1064



You have an immediate heart loser and if the ♦K is off side, you will lose 1 diamond trick. Therefore, you have to bring to trumps in for only one loser. That job is the reason for using the *Coup En Blanc* technique.

After west wins his ♥A, he switches to a diamond. You play low and East wins the ♦K. He returns a diamond which you win you attack trump.

The Coup En Blanc requires the opponent who holds the ♠A to have only a doubleton. From the bidding, it is reasonable to assume West holds the ♠A. Therefore, South leads a small heart to dummy's ♠K. When that holds, he returns a spade to his hand and ducks. West must win the ♠A and now South can pick up East's remaining spade with his ♠Q. Any other way of playing spades will result in 2 losers on a 3-2 break.

This spade distribution occurs frequently. Every dummy player should remember this cool technique to bring the suit in for only one loser.

This is the entire deal:

	N North ♠K962 ♥8 ♦AQ42 ♣AJ32																	
	W West ♠A4 ♥AKJ974 ♦875 ♣87		E East ♠J107 ♥Q10532 ♦K106 ♣95															
	S South ♠Q853 ♥6 ♦J93 ♣KQ1064		4♠ South 0 0															
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			W	N	E	S	1♥	Dbl	3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass			
W	N	E	S															
1♥	Dbl	3♥	3♠															
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass															
Pass																		

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ye4o42ms>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.