

♠♥♦♣ DEVELOPING ENTRIES ♠♥♦♣

East deals and opens 1♦. You have received this fabulous hand:

S	South
♠	AK1062
♥	K7
♦	AQ
♣	KJ82

With 20 HCP and a Quality 5-card Spade suit, you are too strong to overcall. You make the “big” double and plan to rebid Spades, no matter what your partner calls.

West responds 1♥ and partner passes. East raises his partner to 2♥ and it’s back to you.

Since partner’s pass probably indicates he has less than 6 points, your 2♠ rebid will probably be passed by partner. Since most of the opponents’ points must be well located in East, you take the opportunity to suggest another place to play. You rebid the higher scoring 2NT.

West passes and partner, surprisingly, raises you to 3NT! This becomes the final contract. West leads the ♥6 and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	84
♥	93
♦	97643
♣	A1097

West Leads: ♥6

S	South
♠	AK1062
♥	K7
♦	AQ
♣	KJ82

The lead is won by East's ♥A and the ♥J is returned, taken by your ♥K.

Given the Heart lead, you count 6 top tricks. You need 3 more and cannot afford to lose the lead before you get them. What are your thoughts?

You and your partner share 24 HCP. East opened so you can assume he has the missing Diamond and Club honors. That means you will need 3 entries to the dummy to take two Club finesses and one Diamond finesse. Think about how you can manage that and then read on:

At trick 2, lead the ♣J, tempting West to cover, if he has the ♣Q. Here, West follows low, so you must win the ♣A. Now you assume East holds the ♣Q and lead the ♣10 back to your hand, finessing against the ♣Q, **unblocking the ♣8 on the trick!**

You are still in the dummy, and lead the ♣9. East covers with the ♣Q and you win the ♣K. Now you lead the carefully preserved ♣2 to dummy's ♣7 to take the successful Diamond finesse. That totals 9 tricks in all – contract fulfilled!

This is the entire deal:

14 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ 84 ♥ 93 ♦ 97643 ♣ A1097	1♦ X 1♥ P 2♥ 2NT P 3NT P P P
W West	E East	
♠ Q973 ♥ Q108642 ♦ 52 ♣ 4	♠ J5 ♥ AJ5 ♦ KJ108 ♣ Q653	
	S South	
	♠ AK1062 ♥ K7 ♦ AQ ♣ KJ82	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2nyqsyl2>, 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.