

DON'T LOSE TRUMP CONTROL

You are sitting South and were dealt this hand:

South
 ♠AKQJ10
 ♥5
 ♦Q62
 ♣Q1064

Your partner opens 1♣ and you know that game is in the cards. Unfortunately, you hear your left hand opponent overcall 1♥. You confidently respond 1♠. Your partner rebids 1NT, showing at least one heart stopper. You do want to be in game – but what game: spades or notrump? Many social players will just jump to 4♠. Duplicate players can find out if North has 3 spades by using a convention called “New Minor Forcing.” By rebidding the other minor, you are promising at least 10 points and a 5-card spade suit. You are suggesting a spade contract if North holds 3 spades. The diamond bid is purely artificial and must be alerted.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦ !
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

North shows three spades by bidding them at the 2 or 3 level. Rebidding 2♠ shows a minimum strength hand; 3♠, a maximum. This helps you to place the contract. Here, you have an opening strength hand and your partner has a minimum. You jump to game. West leads the ♥10 and you see this dummy:

	North
	♠932
	♥Q83
	♦AK73
	♣AJ9
West	
♥ 10	
	South
	♠AKQJ10
	♥5
	♦Q62
	♣Q1064

You are in pretty good shape. You have no spade losers, one heart losers, no diamond losers and a possible club loser if the finesse loses. You expect to make an overtrick.

This is the complete board:

