

## DON'T MAKE A BAD SITUATION WORSE

North, your partner, opens 1♠. You are vulnerable with this hand. What do you respond?

S	South
♠	10
♥	106
♦	AKQ8
♣	876432

You are not strong enough to respond at the 2-level. You should simply bid 1NT and hope that partner will rebid a minor. No such luck. He rebids 2♠, promising a 6-card spade suit and a minimum strength hand. Are you thinking about rebidding 3♣ or 3♦?

Well, don't. You surely have a misfit and when you are vulnerable and have a misfit like this one, you want to stop as quickly and at the lowest level as possible. If you go about searching for a better spot at the 3-level, you usually find that the set is worse. More important, there is a chance that partner can actually take 8 tricks even facing a singleton in the trump suit.

This is the full deal:

D 4	N North	W N E S
	♠ AKQ863 ♥ 9743 ♦ 52 ♣ K	P 1♠ P 1NT P 2♠ P P P
W West		E East
♠ 9542 ♥ K8 ♦ J104 ♣ AQJ9		♠ J7 ♥ AQJ52 ♦ 9763 ♣ 105
	S South	
	♠ 10 ♥ 106 ♦ AKQ8 ♣ 876432	2♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Here, East leads the ♦7. North can win this in the dummy and try to run the ♠10. It loses to East, but now he can regain the lead and pull all the remaining trump. Once he does this he can take the two good diamonds in the dummy and his last trump makes eight total tricks.

Notice that 3♣ and 3♦ both get set. If you had rebid 3♣, West would have doubled and partner might have brought you back to 3♠ or worse – 3♥!

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

<http://tinyurl.com/jrdrrzg> 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