

♠♥♦♣ DON'T FORGET THE FINESSE ♠♥♦♣

The dealer is North and he passes, as does East. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	A106542
♥	AQJ
♦	7
♣	AK5

You have 18 HCP and 2 length points. With 20 total points, you should keep the concept of "slam" in your mind. You don't need much from your partner. You open 1♠ and wait to hear the response.

West passes and your partner makes a limit raise to 3♠. Now your hand improves. Your singleton Diamond adds 2 more points and you can add another point for the 6-card trump suit. You have enough points for a small slam and you have all the suits controlled. You could just jump to 6♠. However, it wouldn't cost you anything to find out about the Ace of Diamonds and the ♠K. You inquire with 4NT and partner tells you he has one key card; either the ♦A or the ♠K. You bid 6♠.

West leads the ♦10 and partner lays down this dummy:

N	North
♠	Q873
♥	10963
♦	AQ
♣	QJ10

West's Lead: ♦10

S	South
♠	A106542
♥	AQJ
♦	7
♣	AK5

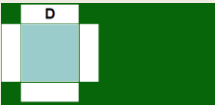
You may have a Heart loser and one or two Spade losers. If you try the Heart finesse and it loses, you have to hope that the ♠K is singleton and must lay down the ♠A. However, if the Heart finesse wins, you can afford to lose a Spade. You just can afford to lose two Spades.

Your plan is to win the **♦ A**. You can't afford to lose to the **♦ K** and you don't need that finesse, anyway. Try the Heart finesse immediately. This will tell you how to play the Spades.

The Heart finesse works, so you can lose a Spade. Lead a low Spade up the the **♠ Q**, losing to the **♠ K**. Now you see the layout of the Spades. They have broken 3-0, but luckily, East has the three Spades.

Win East's Diamond return and lead a Club to the dummy's **♣ Q**. You can now finesse your **♠ 10** against East's **♠ J**. Your **♠ A** will pick up the East's last trump and you can lead a low Spade to North's **♠ 8** to take the second and final Heart finesse.

This is the entire deal:

<div style="text-align: center;">D</div> 		N North ♠ Q873 ♥ 10963 ♦ AQ ♣ QJ10	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>6♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S		P	P	1♠	P	3♠	P	4NT	P	5♣	P	6♣	P	P	P	
W	N	E	S																				
	P	P	1♠																				
P	3♠	P	4NT																				
P	5♣	P	6♣																				
P	P	P																					
W West ♠ ♥ 52 ♦ 1098652 ♣ 97632		E East ♠ KJ9 ♥ K874 ♦ KJ43 ♣ 84																					
	S South ♠ A106542 ♥ AQJ ♦ 7 ♣ AK5		6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0																				

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxsfsc6y>, 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.