

DOUBLING THE VALUE OF YOUR HAND

S	South
♠	AKJ64
♥	6
♦	KJ10942
♣	7

When you pick this hand up it looks like it could have some potential. It has only 11 HCP, but it has a nice 5-card major and another nice 6 bagger – diamonds. You can add a total of 3 length points, plus 2 points for “quality suits”. Quality suits are those of 4+ cards suits containing at least 3 honors. You normally open your longest suit. But opening 1♦ and then rebidding 2♠ is called a reverse and requires a good 16 points or more. If partner has a very weak hand and has to return to your first suit, you will be at 3♦ and too high.

You should open 1♠, the 5-card major and rebid diamonds. You can show the extra length in the diamonds by rebidding them if possible.

Partner responds 2♦ which in our system is a game forcing bid. You should now get excited. Your partner is bidding your 6-card minor, reducing a 2 loser count suit to one or no losers. You should show your diamond support with a 3♦ rebid. Partner now bids 3♠. He is showing you 3-card support, because if he had 4 spades, he would have bid a conventional 2NT. This is the Jacoby 2NT convention and is also game forcing but with 4 trump.

Your hand which originally held 11 HCP and was upgraded to 15 total points because of its long and quality suits, now gets 4 more points for the 2 singletons and 2 more points for the long diamond suit. This is a total of 21 points, twice the value of the high card point count. You can now ask about aces by bidding 4NT. North responds 5♠, which in Roman Key Card Blackwood shows 2 aces and the ♠Q. North knows that spades will be the trump suit because that was the last natural bid before the Blackwood 4NT asking bid. Since you are missing only 1 ace, you bid 6♠.

West leads the ♣A and you see your dummy:

N	North
♠	Q102
♥	A1043
♦	AQ5
♣	932

West leads ♣A

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There doesn't seem much to the play. You win the second club lead in your hand and must hope that spades break no worse than 4-1 (96%) You pull trump in 3 rounds and claim.

Notice the effect of the extreme distribution in your hand. You made a slam, which normally takes 33 points, with a total of 23 HCP.

This is the entire deal:

	N	North	W	N	E	S	
		♠ Q102		P	2♦	P	1♠
		♥ A1043		P	3♣	P	3♦
		♦ AQ5		P	5♠	P	6♣
		♣ 932		D	D	D	D
W	West		E	East			
	♠ 75			♠ 983			
	♥ J75			♥ KQ982			
	♦ 76			♦ 83			
	♣ AKJ1064			♣ Q85			
S	South						
	♠ AKJ64						
	♥ 6						
	♦ KJ10942						
	♣ 7						

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

<http://tinyurl.com/y76ujuzp>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" 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.

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