

♠♥♦♣ FINDING THE QUEEN ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer with this hand:

<b>S</b>	South
♠	K
♥	10954
♦	Q106
♣	KQ1095

You pass and your LHO opens 1♦. Your partner doubles and your RHO passes. It's back to you.

Your partner is short in diamonds and has tolerance for the 3 other suits. Since you prefer playing in a major, you forget about your Clubs and bid your Heart suit. Say, you advance 1♥. West rebids 2♦ and your partner jumps to 3♥. What is going on?

Normally, with a minimum hand of 11 to 16 HCP, partner will not bid again after his initial double unless forced to. Your minimum advance could have been made with zero points. West's 2♦ rebid forced him to bid, but with a minimum hand, he would just make a minimum rebid of 2♥. When the doubler, on his second bid, makes an unforced raise, bids another suit, or makes a jump raise, he is showing the "bid double." This is the hand that is too strong to have overcalled on the first round. If you play overcalls up to 16 HCP's, then his hand is worth 17 or more points. He is asking you to bid game if you have the high end of your range for your initial advance.

I intentionally led you astray on South's advance. South's bid should have been 2♥. With 9-12 points, a jump is required to show this (9-11 with a passed hand). That way, your partner knows exactly what your hand is worth and can take the appropriate action on his second bid. Here, he would have simply rebid 4♥.

West led the ♦A and you see this dummy:

<b>N</b>	North
♠	AJ10
♥	AK83
♦	J3
♣	A642

Lead: ♦ A

<b>S</b>	South
♠	K
♥	10954
♦	Q106
♣	KQ1095

West follows the ♦ A with the ♦ K. East plays the ♦ 9, then the ♦ 8. At trick 3, West leads the ♦ 2. You have a choice of plays from the dummy. You know, from East's play, that he will ruff this trick. You can ruff high with dummy's ♥ K. But then you will surely lose two trump tricks. Or, you can discard the ♠ 10, let East ruff and try to take all the remaining tricks. The third option is to insert the ♥ 8. If East doesn't hold a Heart honor, he won't be able to over ruff and you can place the ♥ QJ in West.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> option has the best chance of success. After playing the ♥ 8, East over ruffs with the ♥ J. He switches to a small Club.

When the opponents open or participate in the auction, counting points is always a big help. You and your partner have a combined 27 HCP. You already have seen the ♥ J in East's hand, so there are only 12 points left. If West didn't have the ♥ Q, he would have opened with 10 HCP. Which is more probable; opening with 10 or opening with 12 HCP's?

Assuming the latter, win the ♥ A and go back to your hand with the ♠ K, running the ♥ 10 and ♥ 9 until the ♥ Q appears. You will only lose the top two Diamonds and the Diamond ruff, making your contract.

This is the entire deal:

	<b>N</b> North	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	♠ AJ10	1♦	X	P	P
	♥ AK83	2♦	3♥	P	1♥
	♦ J3	P	P	P	4♥
	♣ A642				
<b>W</b> West		<b>E</b> East			
♠ Q53		♠ 987642			
♥ Q72		♥ J6			
♦ AK7542		♦ 98			
♣ J		♣ 873			
	<b>S</b> South				
	♠ K				
	♥ 10954				
	♦ Q106				
	♣ KQ1095				
		4♥ S		NS: 0	EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2eksnaa5> 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.

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