

♠♥♦♣ GETTING TO A SLAM ♠♥♦♣

As Dealer, you pick up this hand:

S	South
♠	AKJ9864
♥	107
♦	K7
♣	KQ

Even though you have 16 HCP, your 7-card quality Spade suit adds another 4 points. You open 1♠ and your partner makes a 2/1 game forcing response of 2♦. Since you are in a game force anyway, it is correct to rebid 2♠. Your first objective is to find a fit in the Spade suit and then you need to check your controls for slam. You need the room to cuebid at the 4-level, so you need the room to both confirm Spades and to bid suits at the next level.

Your partner makes a delayed raise of Spades – 3♠. Knowing you have a 6-card suit, yourself, his suit may be only 2 cards in length. Now that you know you are going to play in Spades, you need to check for a Heart control. You do this by control cuebidding 4♣. Since partner has already shown Diamond control, he bids his Heart control. Now you can check for key cards.

You start a key card ask by bidding 4NT and your partner responds 5♠. This shows 2 key cards with the ♠Q. Since you are off 1 key card, it must be one of the Aces. You settle for 6♠.

West leads the ♣A and you see this dummy:

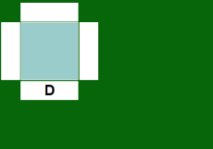
N	North
♠	Q
♥	AK9
♦	AQJ6532
♣	54

West's Lead: ♣A

S	South
♠	AKJ9864
♥	107
♦	K7
♣	KQ

There really isn't very much to the play of this hand. Even though your partner has only 1 Spade, it fills in your sequence. If the opponents trump break no worse than 4-1, you lose no Spades, no Hearts, no Diamonds and only 1 Club. That loser is to West's ♣A.

This is the entire deal:

		N North ♠ Q ♥ AK9 ♦ AQJ6532 ♣ 54		W N E S P 2♦ P 2♠ P 3♠ P 4♣ P 4♥ P 4NT P 5♠ P 6♣
		W West ♠ 10732 ♥ 542 ♦ 94 ♣ A1083	E East ♠ 5 ♥ QJ863 ♦ 108 ♣ J9762	
		S South ♠ AKJ9864 ♥ 107 ♦ K7 ♣ KQ		6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y9hcwgyv>, 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.