

♠♥♦♣ GO FOR AN OVERTRICK ♠♥♦♣

West is the dealer and it's three passes to you. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	AK832
♥	Q1062
♦	A
♣	K105

You have 16 HCP and a case can be made to open 1NT. However, with five Spades and an easy follow-up bid over a 1NT response, you will opt to open 1♠.

West passes and partner responds 2♦. You might consider re-bidding 2♥. But you are playing 2/1 Game Forcing, and North was a passed hand. Therefore, his 2/1 response shows a good 10 to 12 total points and usually 5 or more Diamonds. You have enough points for a game in Notrump and you have length and honors in all four suits. It's best to just bid 3NT and not disclose any more information to the opponents.

West leads the ♥7 and you see you Dummy:

N	North
♠	6
♥	A4
♦	J9752
♣	AJ842

West Leads: ♥7

S	South
♠	AK832
♥	Q1062
♦	A
♣	K105

It looks like your decision to repress re-bidding 2♥ paid off. You might not have gotten the Heart lead and you would have had to develop the suit yourself.

You now see at least 2 Hearts, 2 Spades, 1 Diamond and 2 Clubs. You need 2 more tricks and they will come from Clubs. In fact, you can make an extra Club trick if you guess the location of the ♣Q.

Consider the lead of the ♥7. Since it is a 4th down lead and is relatively high, it is probably from a 5+ card suit. East probably has no more than 2 Hearts and therefore, more room in his hand for extra length in Clubs. You should play East for the ♣Q since there is more room in his Club suit than in West's to hold her majesty. Even though this logic is suspect, it is better than just guessing and even if the finesse loses to West, West can hurt you with a Heart lead and you will collect the 9 tricks you need for your contract.

East plays the ♥9 to the initial lead, and you win the ♥10. You lead a low Club up to the ♣A in the Dummy and return a Club to your ♣10. Bingo, the ♣10 wins and you play for the normal 3-2 break, cashing the ♣K and felling the ♣Q. Now you can cash your 10 winners and claim.

This is the entire deal:

D 8	N North	W N E S
	♠ 6 ♥ A4 ♦ J9752 ♣ AJ842	P P P 1♠ P 2♦ P 3NT P P P
W West	E East	
♠ Q107 ♥ KJ873 ♦ K86 ♣ 76	♠ J954 ♥ 95 ♦ Q1043 ♣ Q93	
	S South	
	♠ AK832 ♥ Q1062 ♦ A ♣ K105	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2fhywjdy>, 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. <https://tinyurl.com/2p3hmb44>

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