

♠♥♦♣ INVITING TO A MINOR SUIT SLAM ♠♥♦♣

Everyone is vulnerable and North is the dealer. He opens 1♥. East overcalls 1♠ and it's your bid:

S	South
♠	952
♥	Q
♦	AK1095
♣	J1096

You are not strong enough to bid your minors at the 2-level, but you can make a Negative Double, implying length in the two minors. You need about 8 HCP for this double, and you have 10 HCP.

West jumps to 3♠. This is pre-emptive and is based on the Law of Total Tricks. It indicates West has 4 Spades and less than 10 HCP. Your partner rebids 4♠. What do you think this means?

This is a cue bid that occurs after the first round so it is a strong, forcing bid that indicates a desire to go to slam. Either he has a self-sufficient Heart suit or he has support for the one or both of the two suits you have indicated by your Negative Double. The cue bid at the 4-level also tends to indicate control of the Spade suit; either a void or the singleton ♠A.

Even though you have shown both minors, you have a clear preference for Diamonds. Your rebid should be 5♦. Partner raises you to 6♦, which becomes the final contract.

West led the ♠4. You see this dummy:

N	North
♠	
♥	AK9632
♦	QJ42
♣	AK3

Lead: ♠4

S	South
♠	952
♥	Q
♦	AK1095
♣	J1096

In suit contracts, you usually count losers. But in slam contract, counting winners is more efficient and easier.

You have 5 Diamonds, 2 Clubs and 3 Hearts as top tricks. Your plan is to set up the Heart suit for extra winners. If the Hearts break 3-3, only a 36% probability, there will be 13 tricks available. Even with the more probable 4-2, you have plenty of trump and transportation to set up at least 2 extra winners on which to discard the two losing Clubs.

Because of the the fortunate Heart break and the fall of the ♣Q under the ♣AK, there is nothing to the play for 13 tricks.

This is the entire deal:

D 13	N North ♠ AK9632 ♥ QJ42 ♦ AK3 ♣ AK3	W N E S 1♥ 1♠ X 3♣ 4♣ P 5♦ P 6♦ P P P	
	W West ♠ K10843 ♥ 1054 ♦ 8 ♣ 8752		E East ♠ AQJ76 ♥ J87 ♦ 763 ♣ Q4
	S South ♠ 952 ♥ Q ♦ AK1095 ♣ J1096	6♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0	

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2hpaodj2> 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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