

## KEEP THE DANGEROUS HAND OFF LEAD

North and East both pass and it's up to you with this hand:

S	South
♠	KJ10
♥	AQ
♦	KJ64
♣	A964

With 18 HCP you are too strong for 1NT and too weak for 2NT. You should open 1♦ and after partner's 1-level response, jump to 2NT. This shows a balanced 18-19 points.

Partner responds 1♣ and you jump to 2NT. You have limited your hand to your shape and a very tight 18-19 points so partner can accurately place the contract. He raises to 3NT. West leads the ♥4 and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	A9542
♥	1087
♦	8
♣	10872

♥4

S	South
♠	KJ10
♥	AQ
♦	KJ64
♣	A964

You can't believe your eyes. He has only 4 HCP. Even adding 1 point for the 5-card spades suit, you can't possibly have enough for a 25 points notrump game.

Well, its not productive to dwell on that problem. You have to concentrate on how you can take 9 tricks. You count 2 spades, 2 hearts (given the lead) and 1 club trick. You need 4 more tricks. It looks like spades and clubs could provide extra tricks. But the problem is the diamond suit. Leads from East through your  $\spadesuit$ KJ9 could spell defeat. You must try to keep East off lead so that the diamonds are led from West into your tenaces.

You might as well start with the spades. Lead the  $\spadesuit$ K and then the  $\spadesuit$ J. If you're lucky, West will hold the  $\spadesuit$ Q and overtake. In fact, he does put up the  $\spadesuit$ Q. Don't win this trick. Let West take the trick and if he leads diamonds, you get a free finesse. He will actually lead another heart. You win this with you're  $\heartsuit$ A and lead your last spade. Since this is the last time you'll be able to get into your dummy, you should overtake with the  $\spadesuit$ A. Now your  $\spadesuit$ 9 can extract the opponents' last spade and you get a total of 2 extra spade tricks.

Now lead the  $\clubsuit$ 10 from the dummy and if East covers, win the  $\clubsuit$ A. You don't want East to get the lead. Now you must hope that the other high honor will be in West so you lead another club. West puts up the  $\clubsuit$ K and East plays the  $\clubsuit$ Q. So, West is out of clubs and is left with only diamonds because he discarded a heart on your 5<sup>th</sup> spade. He takes his  $\diamond$ A but must lead a diamond into your  $\diamond$ KJ. Because East had to make 4 discards on the spades, he left himself with only 1 club, so your you made an overtrick with the last club.

This is the entire deal:

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <span style="color: red;">D</span>  <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">13</span> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="color: blue;">N</span> North  <math>\spadesuit</math> A9542  <math>\heartsuit</math> 1087  <math>\diamond</math> 8  <math>\clubsuit</math> 10872         </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%; color: red;">W</th> <th style="width: 25%; color: red;">N</th> <th style="width: 25%; color: red;">E</th> <th style="width: 25%; color: red;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1<math>\diamond</math></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1<math>\spadesuit</math></td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div>	W	N	E	S	P	P	1 $\diamond$		P	1 $\spadesuit$	P	2NT	P	3NT	P	P	P			
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P																						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="color: blue;">W</span> West  <math>\spadesuit</math> Q873  <math>\heartsuit</math> J54  <math>\diamond</math> A932  <math>\clubsuit</math> K3         </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="color: blue;">E</span> East  <math>\spadesuit</math> 6  <math>\heartsuit</math> K9632  <math>\diamond</math> Q1075  <math>\clubsuit</math> QJ5         </div>																				
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <span style="color: blue;">S</span> South  <math>\spadesuit</math> KJ10  <math>\heartsuit</math> AQ  <math>\diamond</math> KJ64  <math>\clubsuit</math> A964         </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: 0.8em;"> <span style="color: blue;">3NT S</span>    <span style="color: blue;">NS: 0 EW: 0</span> </div>																				

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

<http://tinyurl.com/zwbsllk> , 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. If you click on GIB, the software will analyze the hand and show the result for each opening lead.

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