

♠♥♦♣ LOOK THROUGH THE BACKS OF THE CARDS ♠♥♦♣

West deals and opens 1♥. Your partner passes and East raises to 2♥. You hold these cards:

S	South
♠	AQ9873
♥	K108
♦	J
♣	K53

This is better than a minimum opening hand and worth a 2♠ overcall. West rebids 3♥, and partner comes alive and raises you to 3♠. East passes and it's back to you.

Should you pass or take it to 4♠? That depends on how much you like your hand. There are positive features. You have an extra spade and you have a singleton. Your spade spots are good, too. You have a losing trick count of only 6. You need only 3 cover cards from partner to reduce that number to 3 losers.

On the other hand, you have that singleton ♦J that you counted for 1 point which isn't worth any points. Also, you have the ♥K sitting under the heart opener. We'll come back to that, later.

If you're feeling aggressive, you will bid the game. Say you're in 4♠.

West leads the ♦A and switches to the ♣J. Here is your dummy. What is your plan?

N	North
♠	10642
♥	J3
♦	Q865
♣	AQ4

West leads ♦A

S	South
♠	AQ9873
♥	K108
♦	J
♣	K53

You may have a spade loser, 2 heart losers, assuming you ruff your 3rd heart, and 1 diamond loser. That's one too many.

You can try the spade finesse, which if successful, will solve your problem. And if that finesse loses, you have the finesse of the ♥K to fall back on. Better yet, you can hope that West will lead a heart from his hand 😊

You win the ♣A and lead a low spade to your ♠Q. East plays the ♠J and West wins his ♠K. He comes back with another club, which you win in your hand. You pull the last trump and go to the board to lead the ♥J. East plays low. What card do you play from your hand?

The way you want to approach this problem is to consider the various possibilities. You are missing the ♥A and ♥Q. If they are both in West's hand, you are going down. If they are both in East, it doesn't matter which card you play. So, it only pays to consider the case where they are split. But who has the ♥A and who, the ♥Q?

Remember that East opened the bidding. The dummy showed up with 9 HCP and you had 13; 22 HCP, total. He has already shown the ♦A and presumably the ♦K, the ♠K and the ♣J. That's 11 HCP. If he also holds the ♥A, that would make 15 HCP for West; and would only leave 3 HCP for East. Would East raise his partner with only 3 HCP? No. It is much more likely that East holds the ♥A and the ♠J he has already played. You can confidently play the ♥K, creating another winner and making your contract.

Your opponent's might ask you if you can see through the backs of their cards. You can answer that it only seems that way. You are just using bridge logic and simple math.

This is the full deal:



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

<https://tinyurl.com/y37duzfz>, 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.