

♠♥♦♣ LOOKING FOR A CONTRACT ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer, with this hand:

S	undefined
♠	A753
♥	72
♦	
♣	AQJ8732

You have only 11 HCP but you are very unbalanced. You have a quality 7-card suit and a void. This hand must be opened. You offer 1♣.

The opponents are silent and partner responds 1♥. It's back to you and there is a natural tendency to rebid your great Club suit. But remember, your first priority is to find a Major suit fit and unless you bid your Spades right now, they can easily get lost. Over your 1♣, partner now bids 2♦.

In modern bidding, a 2♦ bid in this sequence is conventional. It is called Fourth Suit Forcing (4SF). When three suits have been bid and the responder bids the 4th suit at the 2-level, it says nothing about that 4th suit. What it does say is that we are going to game and we don't yet know in what denomination we are going to play it in.

The bid is back to you and your role is to more fully describe your hand. You have 3 priorities after partner makes a 4SF bid:

Priority 1 – If you have 3 cards in partner's major, you bid it. This caters to the possibility that he has a 5+ card Heart suit.

Priority 2 – Without 3-card support for partner's first suit, bid notrump if you have a Stopper in Diamonds – partner's "artificial" suit.

Priority 3 – Lacking both these holdings, you make the most descriptive bid possible.

With your hand here, the most descriptive bid is, of course, 3♣. Your partner rebids 3♦, showing a real Diamond suit. This allows you to bid 3NT.

West leads the ♦2 and this is your dummy:

N	undefined
♠	K6
♥	K10954
♦	KQ653
♣	10

West's Lead: ♦ 2

S	undefined
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You are thankful for the dummy and especially, for West's lead. You have 2 Spades, at least 6 Clubs and with the lead, you will have at worst, 1 more trick in Diamonds.

You play dummy's ♦ Q which wins. You must set up those Club tricks so you lead the ♣ 10. East plays low. What do you play from your hand?

Resist the urge to finesse. First of all, this is a phantom finesse situations. Even if it is successful, you can't repeat it. Secondly, you have only one entry to your hand outside Clubs – the ♠ A. You must regain entry to your hand after you lose to the ♣ K, and there is only that ♠ A to accomplish it. You must overtake the ♣ 10 with the ♣ J and keep leading Clubs until the ♣ K appears. Now, whatever suit they lead, you regain the lead, enter your hand and runs the rests of the Clubs, making your contract.

Incidentally, if West led a Club initially, he could have set the contract. There would be no way to get that Diamond trick since there is only 2 entry to the dummy.

This is the entire deal:

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