

♠♥♦♣ ONE TRICK SHORT ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer and this your hand:

<b>S</b>	South
♠	74
♥	AKQ42
♦	852
♣	AJ8

The bidding is short and sweet. You open 1♥ and partner raises you to 4♥.

This is a pre-emptive response, promising 5 Hearts and few enough points to make slam an impossibility. It follows the Law of Total Tricks. You will either make the contract or go down less than the opponents can make if they play in their fit.

East passes 4♥ and West leads the ♠A. Here is your dummy:

<b>N</b>	North
♠	9865
♥	J10965
♦	AQ4
♣	3

Lead: ♠A

<b>S</b>	South
♠	74
♥	AKQ42
♦	852
♣	AJ8

You call for dummy's ♠5 and East plays the ♠Q. This signals he either has the ♠J or a singleton. West follows with the ♠K and East plays the ♠2. West leads the ♠3 to East's ♠10 and you ruff. How will you take 9 more tricks?

It appears that the contract depends on the Diamond finesse. You can cross ruff some Spades and Clubs, but you are still left with 3 Diamonds in both your hands. If the ♦K is off side, you will lose 2 Diamonds – 1 trick short!

The solution involves end-playing East.

After winning the 3<sup>rd</sup> trick, you cash the ♣A and ruff a Club. Then lead a Heart to your hand and ruff your last Club high. Cash the J and then lead the ♠9. East must cover with his known ♠J and rather than ruffing, you discard your losing ♦2!

What can East do? If he leads a Diamond, you get a free finesse. If he leads any other suit, you discard another Diamond from your hand and ruff in the Dummy – a ruff and sluff. Either way you've made your contract.

This is the entire deal:

11 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ 9865 ♥ J10965 ♦ AQ4 ♣ 3	P 4♥ P P
W West	E East	
♠ AK3 ♥ 8 ♦ 10973 ♣ Q7654	♠ QJ102 ♥ 73 ♦ KJ6 ♣ K1092	
	S South	
	♠ 74 ♥ AKQ42 ♦ 852 ♣ AJ8	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2jklffmu>, 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.