

♠♥♦♣ PART SCORE MAGIC ♠♥♦♣

South deals and this is your hand, sitting West:

W	euvid
♠	K1076432
♥	AK73
♦	
♣	87

Many would open this hand with a preemptive 3♠. After all, there are 7 Spades and 10 HCP. I think that is wrong for the following reasons:

A side 4-card Heart suit

A void in Diamonds

Simply put, this hand is too strong for a preemptive opening. You may have a game in Hearts and even a slam in Spades, Hearts, or Notrump. It all depends on what your partner has and says in the ensuing auction. I would open this hand 1♠.

Your LHO overcalls 2♦ and partner responds, 2NT. This is a free bid, so he probably has more than 6 points; and not enough to cuebid or otherwise show a strong hand. He also is showing a Diamond stopper, if you are considering notrump. You probably only have a part score and your only option is to return to Spades with a 3♠ rebid. This ends the auction.

North leads the ♦K and this is your dummy:

E	euvid
♠	9
♥	J85
♦	A9862
♣	KQ104

North's Lead: ♦K

W	euvid
♠	K1076432
♥	AK73
♦	
♣	87

You have 2 Heart losers and 1 Club loser. In addition, you have some number of Spade losers. This doesn't look too promising.

Lacking so many intermediates in the trump suit, you should plan to duck a couple of rounds of Spades. Win the ♦ A, discarding your 4<sup>th</sup> Heart, and lead the ♠ 9 to your hand. South will split his honors and play the ♠ J; duck this and let South win. Your best hope is that the ♠ A is doubleton and will appear in the next round of trump.

South does best by leading another Diamond, trying to tap your Spades. He doesn't know you have seven of them. You win this and play another round of trump; low from both hands. Your prayers are answered and the ♠ A does appear – capturing air.

You win another Diamond lead and draw the remaining Spade. There are two ways to play the hearts. You can try to finesse the ♥ J by leading up to it; or play the ♥ AK and hope the ♥ Q is singleton or doubleton. Since the finesse will guarantee at least one Heart loser, you might as well play them from the top. If the ♥ Q doesn't fall, you lose only 1 Heart anyway.

Your decision pays off. The Q falls under the second Heart and you take all three Hearts. But before you take the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heart in the dummy, you lead up to the ♣ KQ in the East hand. If North holds the ♣ A and makes the mistake of playing it on the first Club lead, you can make an overtrick, taking both top Clubs winners. You will win anything that North returns and rack up 10 tricks.

This is the entire deal:

		N euvid 5+			
		♠ A5			
		♥ Q2			
		♦ KQJ1073			
		♣ AJ5			
W euvid 5+		W N E S		E euvid 5+	
♠ K1076432		Pass		♠ 9	
♥ AK73		1♠ 2♦ 2NT Pass		♥ J85	
♦		3♠ PassPassPass		♦ A9862	
♣ 87				♣ KQ104	
		S euvid 5+			
		♠ QJ8			
		♥ 10964			
		♦ 54			
		♣ 9632			

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y99a8hyg>, 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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