

## ♠♥♦♣ PLACING THE MISSING HONORS ♠♥♦♣

West, the dealer, passes as does your Partner. Your RHO opens pre-emptively with 3♣ and it is your bid.

S	undefined
♠	K109843
♥	A4
♦	AQ
♣	A62

You have 17 HCP and a 6-card Spade suit. This is an easy 3♠ overcall. Your LHO passes and your partner makes a cue bid of 4♣. Since this is his first bid, it shows at least 3 Spades and between 10 and 12 dummy points. If he had instead, raised Spades, he would be showing Spade support with less than 10 points. This the reason for using cue bids. It differentiates between weakish and invitational or better support.

Your hand contains only 17 HCP, but when Partner supports your Spade suit, you must revalue your hand. The extra length in the trump suit is worth an extra 3 points. The two doubletons gives you another 1 point. Now you are up to 21 effective points. With Partner's invitational hand, you are in the slam zone.

You can show interest in slam by starting a control bidding sequence. Starting at Partner's 4♣, you bid 4♦. He rebids 4♥ and that shows his agreement with your slam invitation. If he had a minimum for his invitation, he would have simply returned to 4♠. Now you can bid 4NT and find out about your missing ♠A.

Your partner rebids 5♣ showing his one Ace, and you rebid 6♠.

West leads the ♣9 and the dummy comes down:

N	undefined
♠	AQ72
♥	KJ63
♦	1075
♣	Q7

West Leads: ♣9

S	undefined
♠	K109843
♥	A4
♦	AQ
♣	A62

You don't have any losers in the Majors, but you have a possible loser in each of the Minor suits.

Together, you have only 29 HCP. The missing 11 points are probably divided unevenly, with East holding the majority. This fact should inform the line of play.

You can eliminate the Diamond loser with a finesse of the ♦Q, which will work if West holds the ♦K. Alternatively, you can discard the ♦Q on North's Hearts if the you take a successful finesse of the ♥J. That will work if the ♥Q is in East.

Of the two alternate lines of play, the second has a higher probability of success. East is more likely to hold the ♦K and the ♥Q because 1 - he will probably have more points than West, and 2 - he will probably hold more length in those suits than West, who showed 6 or 7 Clubs, and therefore, have more spaces to contain the missing honors.

So, you win the ♣A and draw trump in 2 rounds. Then cash the ♥A and finesse the ♥J. This is successful and now you can discard the losing ♦Q on the ♥K. You give up a Club and claim.

This is the entire deal:

D 4	N North					E East
	♠AQ72 ♥KJ63 ♦1075 ♣Q7					
W West	W	N	E	S		
♠J ♥Q109872 ♦K843 ♣95	Pass	1♦	3♣	3♠	♠65 ♥5 ♦J962 ♣KJ10843	
	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦		
	Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣		
	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠		
	S South					
	♠K109843 ♥A4 ♦AQ ♣A62					6♠ South 0 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2lfd7btz>, 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. <https://tinyurl.com/2p3hmb44>

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