

PLAN FOR THE OVERTRICKS

You are dealt the following hand as South:

South
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ Q108
 ♦ J52
 ♣ KJ763

You are the dealer, with favorable vulnerability. You pass in first seat but your partner opens 1♠. Your RHO doubles and you should make the same bid you would make if there was no double. You aren't strong enough to show your 5-card club suit so all you can do is respond 1NT. West passes and your partner rebids his spades. 2♠ tends to show a 6-card spade suit with a minimum strength hand. East passes and so should you. You have a flat hand with your jacks and queens distributed throughout. You should feel fortunate to be able to play in a low part score.

East leads the ♣10 and you must take over for North:

North
 ♠ A98543
 ♥ K42
 ♦ Q9
 ♣ A5

East
 ♣ 10

South
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ Q108
 ♦ J52
 ♣ KJ763

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Dbl	1NT
Pass	2 ♠	All Pass	

Sitting North, you count your losers. Outside the trump suit, you have 2 heart and 2 diamond losers. That means you must limit your spade losers to only 1. This requires a 3-2 trump split and the ♠K to be in East. Another possibility is a setup of the club suit. That will require a 3-3 club break because of the paucity of dummy entries.

Win the first club in your hand and lead a low spade to dummy's ♠Q and hold your breath. Say East rises with the ♠K. That's was good news as long as the split is 3-2. East will lead another club which you

will win. You can pull another round of trump with your ♠Q. Both opponents follow. Take another risk and lead the third club, ruffing in your hand. Again, both opponents will follow.

Now you can see a path for an overtrick. Pull the last trump and lead the ♥K. East will win and lead the ♦A and another diamond which West will win with his ♦K. Whatever West leads, you can win and claim 9 tricks. There was probably more skill than luck here but in a match point duplicate game, overtricks count so much. When you do your planning, think about not only making your contract but taking overtricks as well.

Here is the entire deal:

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 3 D </div>	N North ♠ A98543 ♥ K42 ♦ Q9 ♣ A5	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>X</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1♠	X	1NT	P	2♠	P	P	P			
	W	N	E	S														
P	1♠	X	1NT															
P	2♠	P	P															
P																		
W West ♠ 72 ♥ J76 ♦ K10873 ♣ Q42		E East ♠ KJ10 ♥ A953 ♦ A64 ♣ 1098																
	S South ♠ Q6 ♥ Q108 ♦ J52 ♣ KJ763	2♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0																

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