

♠♥♦♣ SAFETY FIRST ♠♥♦♣

It's 3 passes to you. You have this 15 HCP balanced hand:

S	euvid
♠	KQ86
♥	K54
♦	A73
♣	K107

Naturally, you open 1NT and partner responds 2♣, asking if you have a 4-card Major. After your 2♠ rebid, he offers an invitational 2NT. This, of course, shows 8-9 points, 4 Hearts and less than 4 Spades.

You would like to rack up a game score, but with a maximum of 24 points and possibly even less, you pass and settle for a part score.

West leads the ♣9 and you see this dummy.

N	Robot
♠	74
♥	96
♦	KJ9862
♣	A86

West Leads: ♣9

S	euvid
♠	KQ86
♥	K54
♦	A73
♣	K107

You count only 4 top tricks. But even if the Diamond finesse is off, you have a good possibility for 3 extra Diamonds through length, as well as 1 Spade trick through promotion. You see 8 probable tricks to fulfil your contract.

You win the ♣K and cash the ♦A. When leading up to the dummy to finesse the ♦J, West pops up with the ♦Q. That's great. Now you see a possibility for an overtrick. If you first promote the Spade winner, you can score a total of 9 tricks. Now you wish you had accepted that invitation!

Did you forget something? If East holds the ♠A, he can lead a Heart through your bare ♥K and take 5 or more Heart tricks. That's a 1 trick set. You can't afford to take that chance.

The correct line of play is to take your 8 sure tricks and then lead a low spade to your ♠KQ. If West holds the ♠A, you still get the overtrick. But if East shows up with the ♠A, you will at least have made your contract.

This is the entire deal:

	N Robot ♠ 74 ♥ 96 ♦ KJ9862 ♣ A86	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	P	P	1NT	P	2♣	P	2♣	P	2NT	P	P	P			
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P	P	P	1NT																			
P	2♣	P	2♣																			
P	2NT	P	P																			
P																						
W Robot ♠ 9532 ♥ AQJ87 ♦ Q10 ♣ 95	E Robot ♠ AJ10 ♥ 1032 ♦ 54 ♣ QJ432																					
	S euvid ♠ KQ86 ♥ K54 ♦ A73 ♣ K107	2NT S NS: 0 EW: 0																				

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

<https://tinyurl.com/ytf4hvyx>, 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.