

♠♥♦♣ SUPPORTING PARTNER'S OVERCALL VER 2 ♠♥♦♣

East dealt and opened 1♠. You have been dealt 12 HCP and a 6-4 hand.

S	undefined
♠	6
♥	AKQ1054
♦	K6
♣	10876

You not only get 2 extra length points for the 6-card Heart suit, you have a Quality Suit – worth another 1 point. You make an unlimited 2♥ overcall.

West passes and your partner responds 2♠. This is a cuebid showing 10 or more points and at least (most likely) 3 Hearts. Since she is an un-passed hand, her bid is unlimited.

Since you have been supported, you can count at least 3 extra points; 2 points for the singleton and 1 more for the 6th card in your trump suit. This hand is certainly worth a 4♥ rebid – even if partner only has 10 points.

Another way of evaluating the two hands is to use Losing Trick Count. You have a 6 ½ LTC and a limit raises usually contains no more than 8 LTC. That's a total of 13 ½ and 24-13 ½ = 10 ½. You should be able to take 10 tricks.

West leads his partner's suit – the ♠10. You see this dummy:

N	undefined
♠	AK854
♥	976
♦	J943
♣	3

Lead: ♠10

S	undefined
♠	6
♥	AKQ1054
♦	K6
♣	10876

You have no Spade or Heart losers, but you have 2 Diamond and 4 Club losers. Mentally, going down the list of common techniques for eliminating losers (ruffing in dummy, finessing, discarding on long suit in dummy and endplays), you can discard 1 Club on the good Spade and ruff 2 more in the dummy.

Therefore, after you win the Spade lead, you cannot draw a single trump. Instead, lead the ♣3 to your hand and take the necessary Club loss early. If the opponents are anywhere on top of their game, they will lead a Heart, trying to cut down on those ruffs. If they get the lead later, they must lead another Heart, if possible.

You will win trick 3 and ruff a Club. Take the ♠A, discarding a Club, and ruff your last Club. Now you can count 6 Heart tricks, 2 Club ruffs and the 2 top Spades. You can try for an overtrick by leading a Diamond to your ♦K. East holds the finessable ♦A and you take 11 tricks, total. Don't forget to draw the last trump 😊

This is the entire deal:

1 ^D	N undefined	W	N	E	S
	♠ AK854 ♥ 976 ♦ J943 ♣ 3	P	2♠	P	1♠ 2♥ 4♥
W undefined		E undefined			
♠ 107 ♥ J8 ♦ 852 ♣ AKQ542		♠ QJ932 ♥ 32 ♦ AQ107 ♣ J9			
	S undefined				
	♠ 6 ♥ AKQ1054 ♦ K6 ♣ 10876				4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/26nhq65b> 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.