

♠♥♦♣ TAKING 12 TRICKS ♠♥♦♣

North, your partner, is the dealer and opens 2♣. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	A105
♥	KJ108
♦	K2
♣	J1072

You have only 12 HCP, and your partner has 22 or more. The first bit of information you want to give him is your good strength. Bidding your 5-card Diamond suit can be misleading, since it is also the default bid. This is one of the relatively rare instances where responding 2NT is the most descriptive bid. It shows a balanced hand of more than 8 HCP.

Your partner raises to 3NT. He is showing a hand of 22-24 or 25 points that was going to rebid 2NT over your waiting bid of 2♦. You know there are at least 34 HCP and enough for a small slam. But there could be as many as 37 HCP. That is the minimum required for a grand slam.

The way to invite to a grand slam is to make a quantitative raise to 5NT. This asks partner to bid 7NT if he has a maximum or a good source of tricks, like a solid 6-card minor; otherwise, just 6NT

Partner stops at 6NT and West leads the ♦7. How will you take 12 tricks?

N	North
♠	Q72
♥	AQ
♦	AJ1095
♣	AKQ

West Leads: ♦7

S	South
♠	A105
♥	KJ108
♦	K2
♣	J1072

Counting your top tricks, you have 1 Spade, 4 Hearts, 4 Clubs and 2 Diamonds. You need 1 more trick, which can easily come from Diamonds.

When things look too easy, there's usually a problem. Often, the problem is blockage.

Here, the Clubs and Hearts are both blocked. Care must be taken to be able to move between both hands. Start by playing the $\spadesuit 9$ on the initial lead. That wins. Then unblock the $\spadesuit K$ and go to the dummy to unblock the Clubs. While there, cash the $\spadesuit A$ and set up the extra Diamond by forcing out the $\spadesuit Q$. East will win the $\spadesuit Q$ and return a Spade. Win the $\heartsuit A$ and go back to the Dummy with a Heart, cashing the remaining winners there. Then overtake the $\heartsuit Q$ with the $\heartsuit K$ to get back to your hand to cash the $\clubsuit J$ and the rest of the Hearts.

This is the entire deal:

D 1		N North		E East		
		$\spadesuit Q72$ $\heartsuit AQ$ $\diamondsuit AJ1095$ $\clubsuit AKQ$		$\spadesuit 63$ $\heartsuit 97643$ $\diamondsuit Q864$ $\clubsuit 86$		
W West		W	N	E	S	
$\spadesuit KJ984$ $\heartsuit 52$ $\diamondsuit 73$ $\clubsuit 9543$			2 \clubsuit	Pass	2NT	
			Pass	3NT	Pass	5NT
			Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
			Pass			
		S South		6NT South		
		$\spadesuit A105$ $\heartsuit KJ108$ $\diamondsuit K2$ $\clubsuit J1072$		0 0		

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2z5pnwbw> , 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.