

♠♥♦♣ THE CLASSIC THROW IN ♠♥♦♣

West is the Dealer and opens a pre-emptive 2♠. Your partner passes and Righty raises his partner to 4♠. What do you do with this hand?

S	South
♠	
♥	AK98642
♦	AQ6
♣	A62

What are the good things about this hand? Terrific shape: You have 7-3-3-0, which is very rare. There is magic in voids – especially when it's in our opponents long suit.

High card points: you have 17 HCP and you can add 3 more for the length.

What are the bad things about the hand? You could lose 4 or 5 tricks if partner doesn't have the missing cards you need – the ♦K the ♣K and 2 or 3 Hearts.

The good triumphs over the bad and you overcall 5♥. The opponents are silent.

West leads the ♣10 and this is your dummy:

N	North
♠	K62
♥	Q1073
♦	754
♣	KJ3

West's Lead: ♣10

S	South
♠	
♥	AK98642
♦	AQ6
♣	A62

You did get some of the needed cards. You have 10 top tricks and you need only 1 more. Are you going to risk it all on the Diamond finesse?


Not if you know how to execute an endplay. If you can get West to lead the Diamond into your hand, you obviate the need for the finesse.

The problem is that if East gets in the lead, he can lead the Diamond through your hand. Therefore, you must duck the initial Club lead, and let West win. If East overtakes the ♣ 10 with his ♣ Q (if he has it), he is giving up a Club trick, so he will play low. If West continues with the ♣ 9, you will win and pull trump in two rounds, starting with a high card in your hand and saving dummy's high hearts for entries.

The endplay requires you to hold trump in both hands, and to eliminate all the exit suits before you throw West in the lead. The throw-in suit must be Spades, West's long suit.

You win the 2nd trump in the dummy and ruff one of dummy's Spades. Go back to the dummy with a Heart and ruff another Spade. Cash the last Club with dummy's ♣ K and lead the ♠ K, discarding your low Diamond and allowing West to win. Now he must either lead a Diamond into your tenace, or lead another suit, allowing you to ruff in the dummy and discard the ♦ Q from your hand.

This is the entire deal:

	N North ♠ K62 ♥ Q1073 ♦ 754 ♣ KJ3	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>5♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	2♠	P	4♠	5♥	P	P	P	
	W	N	E	S										
2♠	P	4♠	5♥											
P	P	P												
W West ♠ AQ10975 ♥ ♦ K103 ♣ 10974		E East ♠ J843 ♥ J5 ♦ J982 ♣ Q85												
	S South ♠ ♥ AK98642 ♦ AQ6 ♣ A62	5♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0												

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yb6bxuc8>, 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.