

## ♠♥♦♣ THREE IS ENOUGH ♠♥♦♣

You pick up this hand and are all set to open 1NT when your RHO, East, opens before you with 1♣.

S	undefined
♠	K42
♥	AQ8
♦	KJ73
♣	Q95

A hand that can open 1NT can also overcall 1NT as long as it has a stopper in the opponent's suit. The ♣Q95 is a half stopper and East's Clubs may not be a real suit. I think it is worth a 1NT overcall.

West passes and your partner responds 2♦. This is a transfer to Hearts, promising at least 5 Hearts. That bid should delight you. However, before you can complete the transfer, West rebids 2♠.

What are your choices. Your partner could be broke and ♥2 is all you can make on this hand. However, a pass would be selling out to an opponent that doesn't have any more points than you.

Bridge is a bidder's game. Both your bids are aggressive and you may not make 3♥; but playing "scared bridge" is a losing strategy in the long run.

Your 3♥ bid is passed out by your partner and that becomes the final contract.

West leads the ♣4 and you see this dummy.

N	undefined
♠	975
♥	KJ1094
♦	109652
♣	

West Leads: ♣4

S	undefined
♠	K42
♥	AQ8
♦	KJ73
♣	Q95

Counting losers from your hand looks daunting. It's often easier to count losers in the hand with the most trump - the Master Hand. This process is called "reversing the dummy."

North has 3 Spade losers, no Heart losers and at most, 2 Diamond losers. This is 1 loser too many. But remembering the bidding, you can place most of the missing high cards. West passed both times, so he probably has fewer than 6 points. Your partner has only 4 points. And you have 15 points, leaving about 15 for East. There is an excellent chance that the ♠A is in East and thus, the ♠K can be finessed. If West held it, he would might have raised his partner's 2♠. The finesse will eliminate the setting loser. But there are stumbling blocks ahead.

Ruff the Club and play one round of trump with the ♥K, ditching the ♥Q under it. You need entries to the dummy to take the Spade and Diamond finesses. If you draw all the trump, you will be left with only one trump in the Dummy. You must set up the Diamond suit by finessing the ♦K and if it loses, West will return another Club which you must trump with your last Heart. Now when you finesse the ♦J and if it loses, you will be subject to all of the Defender's remaining Clubs and you will be set 3 tricks.

On trick 3, you lead the ♠5 and East plays low. Your ♠K wins, and you can go back to the Dummy with the ♥9 to Dummy's ♥Q. Again, both Defenders follow suit. There is 1 Heart outstanding which, again, you must leave.

Now lead a small Diamond to the ♦K. West shows out but luckily, he does not hold the missing trump. West will win and will switch to Spades. East takes his two Spade tricks but then has to return to Clubs. You ruff in the Dummy but you will trump his Club return and you can just force out the ♦Q. West will probably lead his final Heart which you win and run the rest of the Diamonds.

This is the entire deal:

14		N North		E East	
		♠975		♠AQJ6	
		♥KJ1094		♥65	
		♦109652		♦	
		♣		♣AKJ7632	
W West		W	N	E	S
♠1083				1♣	1NT
♥732		Pass	2♦	2♠	3♥
♦AQ84		Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣1084					
		S South			
		♠K42			
		♥AQ8			
		♦KJ73			
		♣Q95			
				3♥	South
				0	0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/yuwgyayy> , 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. <https://tinyurl.com/2p3hmb44>

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