

♠♥♦♣ TRUMP SHY ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer with this hand:

S	euvid
♠	4
♥	AKJ63
♦	Q2
♣	A9862

You have 14 HCP with an unbalanced 5-5-2-1 distribution. You open the higher ranking Major suit -1♥, and when Partner responds 1♠, you rebid your 5-card minor.

Partner passes and 2♣ is your contract. West leads the ♠3 and you see this dummy:

N	Robot
♠	K862
♥	9
♦	K10975
♣	1073

West Leads: ♠3

S	euvid
♠	4
♥	AKJ63
♦	Q2
♣	A9862

Your partner had a dead minimum for his first response. Fearing a misfit, he elected to play in what he thought was a 4-3 Club fit.

Counting your losers, you see 1 Spade, 3 Hearts, 1 Diamond and some number of Clubs, depending on the split.

The ♠A is certainly in East so you duck the opening lead, losing to East's ♠9. East returns a low Club. What is your plan?

You should take the clue that you got from East's return. He sees the singleton Heart in the Dummy and begins to lead trump, attempting to cut down on your Heart ruffs.

The key to this deal is the cross ruff of the Hearts and Spades. You do have 8 trump, but only 1 honor. You are going to make use of those low trump in the crossruff, so you don't need to draw any Clubs. The Defenders will do that for you.

Win the ♣A immediately so you can keep two Clubs in the dummy. Letting West win will result in a second trump lead and the loss of a trick for you. Then lead the ♥A and ruff a low Heart. Come back to your hand with a Spade ruff and ruff a second low Heart, followed by a second Spade ruff.

So far you have taken 6 tricks, and there are 3 trump outstanding and they are all honors – the ♣KQJ. You hope that they are split 2-1. You might as well let the opponents use them on ruffing your winning Hearts, so they can't lead them and take control of the hand.

You lead the ♥K and West ruffs with the ♣J. If West leads the ♣K, he smothers his Partner's ♣Q. On the other hand, if West switches to the ♦A, you win the second Diamond and lead a club yourself. The ♣K and ♣Q fall from the two Defenders. Your ♥K and ♣8 are the 8th and 9th tricks. You have made 1 overtrick and should get a very good matchpoint score.

This is the entire deal:

3	N Robot	W N E S
	♠ K862 ♥ 9 ♦ K10975 ♣ 1073	P 1♠ P 2♣ P P P
W Robot	E Robot	
♠ Q73 ♥ 1075 ♦ AJ43 ♣ KJ4	♠ AJ1095 ♥ Q842 ♦ 86 ♣ Q5	
	S euvid	
	♠ 4 ♥ AKJ63 ♦ Q2 ♣ A9862	2♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/22bg6t5k>, 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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