

♠♥♦♣ TWO FINESSE ARE BETTER THAN ONE ♠♥♦♣

In this Deal you are sitting East. You are the Dealer. What is your bid?

E	undefined
♠	KQ943
♥	AJ2
♦	A65
♣	A4

You have 18 HCP and a 5-card Spade suit. You plan to open 1♠. But whenever you have this strong a hand, you must keep the word "slam" in the back of your mind. Of course, slam depends on your partner's response and the opponents' interference.

South passes and partner responds 4♦. This is a splinter bid. A double jump in a lower ranking suit promises at least four Spades and a singleton or void in the suit bid. It is game forcing and normally shows 13 to 15 Support Points. Does this response bring the concept of "slam" back to mind? It should. You have at least 31 points.

North doubles 4♦. A double of an artificial bid is a lead director. This doesn't affect your rebid. You should rebid 4NT and find out if partner has the ♠A. He does and rebids 5♣. Now you want to ask for Kings. 5NT is the bid for this and partner shows 2 Kings.

You are off one King. But it might be the ♦K and therefore, isn't needed. Most Easts would settle for 6♠. But you are going to risk it all and bid 7♠.

South follows his partner signal and leads the ♦4, and you see the dummy:

W	undefined
♠	AJ752
♥	K743
♦	3
♣	KJ5

South's Lead: ♦4

E	undefined
♠	KQ943
♥	AJ2
♦	A65
♣	A4

Maybe you're kicking yourself for not stopping at 6 ♠.

You have 5 Spades, 2 Hearts, 1 Diamond, 2 Clubs and 2 Diamond ruffs. You need one more trick. If the ♣Q is in South, you can score the ♣J with a finesse. If the ♥Q is in North, you can score the ♥J. You only have one chance. Which finesse is it going to be?

Here's the expert approach to this situation. When you have two finesses for Queens available and you have to make the right decision of which to take play the Ace and King from the top of the longer suit. If the Queen doesn't fall under the AK, take the finesse in the other suit.

So, after winning the ♦A and drawing trump, play the ♥AK. Here, the ♥Q doesn't fall so you come to your hand and finesse the ♣J. Eureka!

This is the entire deal:

14	N undefined	W N E S
	♠ 108 ♥ 1085 ♦ KQ109 ♣ 10932	4♦ X 4NT P 5♣ P 5NT P 6♥ P 7♠ P
W undefined	E undefined	
♠ AJ752 ♥ K743 ♦ 3 ♣ KJ5	♠ KQ943 ♥ AJ2 ♦ A65 ♣ A4	
	S undefined	
	♠ 6 ♥ Q96 ♦ J8742 ♣ Q876	7♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6zzzbmy>, 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.