

UNTANGLE YOUR SUITS

You are the dealer. You open a strong 2♣ and partner makes a waiting bid of 2♦. What's your rebid?

South
 ♠ A5
 ♥ AK43
 ♦ KJ3
 ♣ AKQ4

You have 24 balanced points. If you had 1 more HCP or a 5-card suit, you might jump to 3NT. Since you are so flat, you probably should settle with an invitational 2NT. If partner is broke, you may already be too high.

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

After West's lead, you see this dummy:

	North
	♠ 76
	♥ QJ
	♦ Q1086
	♣ 98652
West ♠Q	South
	♠ A5
	♥ AK43
	♦ KJ3
	♣ AKQ4

Not as bad as you thought. You need to count top tricks in notrump. You have 1 spade, 4 hearts and 3 club tricks. You can easily get 3 more diamonds but you must give up the lead to the ♦A. If you play a diamond, the opponents will win the ♦A and run their 4 spade tricks to defeat you.

There is another possibility. You have 9 clubs. If they break no worse than 3-1, you can get an extra 2 tricks from that suit. But there is another problem.

In order to take the 4 heart tricks, you must unblock the ♥QJ in the dummy. Then you have to go back to your hand to clear the heart suit. Then you have to get back to the dummy to play the 4th and 5th clubs. This is not hard to do. It only requires some advance planning. All the while you are transporting yourself back and forth to the dummy, you must not touch diamonds. You must use only the two rounded suits to do all of this.

You might as well win the first trick. It doesn't do any good to hold up. Now test the clubs by playing the ♣AK. If they behave, play a low heart to the ♥QJ, and lead a low club to the ♣Q to get back to your hand and take the ♥AK. Now you can lead a low club to the dummy's ♣9 to finish off the club suit and take 10 tricks in all.

Here is the entire hand:

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 3 D </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> N North ♠ 76 ♥ QJ ♦ Q1086 ♣ 98652 </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">N</td> <td style="width: 15%;">E</td> <td style="width: 15%;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div>				W	N	E	S	P	2♦	P	2NT	P	3NT	P	P	P			
		W	N	E	S																		
P	2♦	P	2NT																				
P	3NT	P	P																				
P																							
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> W West ♠ QJ1084 ♥ 1097 ♦ 742 ♣ 103 </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> E East ♠ K932 ♥ 8652 ♦ A95 ♣ J7 </div>																					
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> S South ♠ A5 ♥ AK43 ♦ KJ3 ♣ AKQ4 </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0 </div>																			

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

<http://tinyurl.com/ngg75ke>, copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.