

♠♥♦♣ WHEN TO SUPER ACCEPT ♠♥♦♣

North is the dealer and passes. East passes and it's your bid:

S	South
♠	A1098
♥	10652
♦	AK
♣	A96

You have 15 HCP and good intermediates. Your hand is balanced, so it's 1NT. Your partner responds 2♥ and it's back to you.

Partner's 2♥ is a transfer to Spades. This makes you very happy, since you have four of them yourself. Many South players would "Super Accept". That is, would now bid 3♠, instead of just 2♠. That would be wrong. In addition to holding 4 of the suit, you also need a maximum for your 1NT opening. That is, 17 HCP.

The theory behind the super accept is simple. The responder who makes a transfer bid can have a very wide range of hands. He must have 5 or more Spades, but he can have anywhere between 0 and 25 points. So, his rebid can be either pass with between 0 and a bad 8 points; invitation with a good 8 and 9; or a game bid with 10 or more.

The super accept is made to encourage him NOT to pass with 7 or a poor 8 points. You are telling him that you have a total of 24 or 25 points and with a 9-card Spade fit, you can usually take an extra trick or two through ruffing, even after drawing all the trump. If you have only 15 points, as above, he may bid a losing game.

Therefore, your correct rebid is 2♠ and your partner passes.

West led the ♦7. You see this dummy:

N	North
♠	76543
♥	KQ
♦	QJ10
♣	1085

Lead: ♦7

S	South
♠	A1098
♥	10652
♦	AK
♣	A96

You have 1 or 2 Spades losers, 1 Diamond and 2 Club losers. You shouldn't have a problem making 2♠. However, in match point play overtricks are very important. You have a "long suit" in the dummy: the 3 Diamonds. If you can unblock your ♦AK and get to dummy, you can discard one of the Club losers. What is your plan?

Win the ♦A and play the ♠A and another Spade. You are in luck, since they divide 2-2. Now create a dummy entry in Hearts. East wins her ♥A and leads the ♣Q. Win your ♣A, unblock the final Diamond honor in your hand and go to the dummy to discard one of your losing Clubs on the ♦Q. You end up losing only 1 Spade, 1 Heart and 1 Club – 10 tricks in all.

Notice that North has the type of hand that would have invited if you had super accepted. It turns out to make 4♠. But that was only because of the lucky trump split and presence of the 3 top Diamond honors in a 3-2 holding.

This is the entire deal:

D 1	N North	W N E S
	♠ 76543 ♥ KQ ♦ QJ10 ♣ 1085	P P P 1NT P 2♥ P 2♠ P P P
W West	E East	
♠ K2 ♥ J73 ♦ 7543 ♣ K742	♠ QJ ♥ A984 ♦ 9862 ♣ QJ3	
	S South	
	♠ A1098 ♥ 10652 ♦ AK ♣ A96	
		2♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2ne9z6fp> 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.

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