

BIDDING IT ON YOUR OWN

East passes and what do you open?

S	South
♠	
♥	K7
♦	AKQJ62
♣	AJ1084

To your 18 HCP you can add 3 length points for 6 and 5 card suits. You get another 2 points for the two quality suits (4+ card suits with 3 honors.) You could open 2♣ but your two suits are minors and using the 2♣ strong artificial opening often leads to awkward auctions. The biggest problem is that partner is liable to respond 2♦, your best suit. You want to be the declarer with this hand. I like to open these hands 1♦ and then jump to show my strength after partner responds.

West doubles for takeout, partner passes and East jumps to 2♠. You can now show your second suit, rebidding 3♣. West raises his major suit to 3♠ which is passed around to you. What do you do now?

Yes, you are vulnerable and they stopped in part score. This argues for your giving up to the opponents. However, your void in their suit, your good second club suit and your super-duper diamond suit might convince you to take one more bid. I would. Your 4♦ bid is passed around to East, who doubles for penalty.

West leads the ♠A and you see this dummy.

N	North
♠	9843
♥	J1053
♦	983
♣	53

Notice that if West had led a diamond initially and kept leading diamonds each time they got in the lead, they could have held you to 9 tricks.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/ybzqgn45>, or 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.

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