

## DOUBLED INTO GAME

You pick up this hand, as dealer:

S	South
♠	KQJ987
♥	6
♦	
♣	KQJ1082

How many times do you get a hand with 6-6 distribution? There are only 12 HCP, but the shape is startling. You have only 1 loser in each black suit and one in hearts. You could open 2♣, since you have fewer than 5 losers, but you can afford to go more slowly with your point count. Holding only 12 HCP, it is unlikely that you will be passed out at 1♠.

You do open 1♠ and partner responds 1NT. However, East doubles for take-out. You can show your club suit now with 2♣. When you do, West advances his partner's double with 3♦. This is passed around to you and you rebid your spades at the 3-level. This is passed around to East who doubles for penalty.

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	1NT	Dbl	2♣
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

Your partner's pass indicates a very weak hand – a hand that had to stretch to come up with his first response of 1NT. You had visions of slam, but the doubling of 3♠ spades will mean a better score than the field that will probably end up in 4♠. Lacking 3 aces, slam is now out of the question.

West leads the ♦3, and this is the full deal:

7 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ 32 ♥ 75432 ♦ KQJ9 ♣ 95	P 1NT X 2♣ 3♠ P P 3♠ P P X P P P
W West	E East	
♠ 654 ♥ A98 ♦ 106432 ♣ A6	♠ A10 ♥ KQJ10 ♦ A875 ♣ 743	
	S South	
	♠ KQJ987 ♥ 6 ♦ ♣ KQJ1082	
		3ex S NS: 0 EW: 0

You put up the ♦J, planning to ruff in your hand. If you carelessly insert the ♦9, East might put in the ♦10 rather than the ♦A and you will not have set up the diamonds for discard from your hand. East will put up his ♦A and, of course, you ruff. Now you turn to the club suit, leading the ♣K. West does best to take the ♣A and take his ♥A. The rest is easy. You force out the ♠A and those three aces are the only tricks the opponents take. Your score for taking 10 tricks in a doubled 3♠ contract is +930. Those overtricks in a vulnerable contract are very expensive!

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

<http://tinyurl.com/j7nau4u> 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