

## HANGING IN THERE

You pick up this winner and after East passes you open 1♠.

S	South
♠	AQJ1042
♥	AQJ94
♦	5
♣	7

West doubles for takeout and you are disappointed to hear your partner pass this free bid. He doesn't have 6 points, but he easily could have one winner to compensate for your mere 4 losers.

East advances with 2♣ and you bid your second suit – 2♥. West raises his partner to 3♣ and partner again passes. East passes and it's back to you. Would you give up? I suggest you bid something. If you rebid your hearts you are promising 5, with this bidding sequence. But since your partner didn't raise your 2♥ bid, you probably should rebid your 6-card spade suit. It is self sufficient, meaning you can pull all the outstanding trump and have enough left over to ruff the minor suit leads by the opponents.

You rebid 3♣ and partner comes to life and raises to 4♣.

This is how the bidding progressed:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	2♥
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

West leads the ♦A, followed by the ♦K. Here are the two hands:

<b>N</b>	North
♠	K76
♥	73
♦	9632
♣	Q1052

West leads ♥Q

<b>S</b>	South
♠	AQJ1042
♥	AQJ94
♦	5
♣	7

Why did partner raise you to 4♠? He listened to your aggressive bidding based only on your own hand. He had your key missing spade honor and a possible winner in the clubs. He thought if you could take 9 tricks on your own, he could contribute the 10<sup>th</sup> trick.

You ruff the second diamond and go to the dummy in spades and finesse the ♥Q. It loses to West's ♥K. He leads his ♠AK. You ruff the second club and pull the remaining trump. Then you play the hearts from the top, hoping that the ♥10 falls under the ♥QJ. It does and you take the rest of the hearts to complete your contract.

This is the entire deal:

Hand Summary			
	W	N	E
<b>W West</b>	3 K865 AK1084 AK3	<b>N North</b> K76 73 9632 Q1052	P 1♠ X P 2♠ 2♥ 3♣ P P 3♦ P 4♦ P P
<b>S South</b>		<b>E East</b> 985 102 QJ7 J9864	
		4♠ S	NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/yb7f3oh2>, 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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