

♠♥♦♣ WATCH THE SPOTS ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer. You have 14 HCP and a Quality Heart suit. You open 1♥ and your partner raises you to 3♥.

S	undefined
♠	A10
♥	AJ1073
♦	A1073
♣	63

This is a 4-card limit raise, promising a good 10 to a bad 12 dummy points. Will you accept the invitation? Based on your HCP and your 7-loser hand, you might decline. However, you three big positives: The 3 Aces, the 3 10's, and the side 4-card Diamond suit. This hand is easily worth 15 or 16 points.

In 4♥, West leads the ♠K. Plan your play:

N	undefined
♠	9854
♥	Q864
♦	6
♣	AQ42

West Leads: ♠K

S	undefined
♠	A10
♥	AJ1073
♦	A1073
♣	63

You notice that you have only 21 HCP between you and Partner. This contract will take some thought.


The first thing you do is count the losers in your hand. Your hand is the Master Hand because it has the longer trump suit. You have 1 Spades loser, 1 possible Heart

losers, 3 Diamond losers and 1 Club loser. That's 6 losers in total and you must find a way of eliminating 3 of them. You have two finesses available; in Hearts and in Clubs. You also might be able to ruff 3 Diamonds in the dummy. Maybe the hand isn't as hopeless as you thought 😊

Start by winning the ♠A and cash the ♦A. Then take your first Diamond ruff. You need to keep returning to your hand and you don't have many entries. You can create 2 entries by giving up a Spade. West will win and lead a Heart, trying to cut down on your ruffs. If East puts up his ♥K, you win the ♥A and ruff another Diamond. Now you can ruff the ♠8 in your hand. This allows you to take the 3rd Diamond ruff. But wait, there are still 2 trump outstanding and if they are split 1-1, you don't want the opponents to use them separately.

Lead a small Heart to the ♥Q. You see both outstanding trump fall. Now, if you have been paying attention to the Spade spots as they were played, you realize the your ♠9 is high. You cash the ♠9 and discard a losing Club. Now take your ♣A and ruff a Club. Your only losers are a Spade and a Diamond, making five.

This is the entire deal:

	N undefined ♠ 9854 ♥ Q864 ♦ 6 ♣ AQ42	W N E S P 3♥ P 1♥ P P P 4♥
	W undefined ♠ KQJ ♥ 92 ♦ KJ952 ♣ 1095	E undefined ♠ 7632 ♥ K5 ♦ Q84 ♣ KJ87
	S undefined ♠ A10 ♥ AJ1073 ♦ A1073 ♣ 63	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/2fuloojy>, 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.