

## ♠♥♦♣ BEWARE THE SWITCH ♠♥♦♣

You have dealt yourself this nice hand:

S	South
♠	AJ3
♥	KJ95
♦	A742
♣	A2

You open 1NT and partner raises you to 3NT. Short and sweet!

West leads the ♠K. Plan your play.

N	North
♠	74
♥	AQ6
♦	QJ1083
♣	863

West leads ♠K

S	South
♠	AJ3
♥	KJ95
♦	A742
♣	A2

You have 7 top tricks; 1 spade, 4 hearts 1 diamond and 1 club. You plan to take the needed extra tricks in diamonds. The critical play is this first trick. Many would let West win the first trick and win the expected ♠Q follow up with the ♠A, setting up the ♠J as the second spade stopper. That would be a good decision were it not for the fact that you have only 1 club stopper. If West is paying attention, he will read his partner's low discouraging card on the ♠K, and switch to clubs. He will knock out your stopper and if the diamond finesse loses, it will be to West, who will take 3 clubs to go along with his 1 spade and 1 diamond to set this cold contract.

The proper play is to win this first trick with your ♠A. Then go to the dummy in hearts and lead the ♦Q. If it loses, West will not be able to lead spades without giving you a spade trick with your ♠J. He will probably make that switch to clubs, but it will be too late. He will not be able to get the lead back before you have taken 10 tricks.

Before you decide to duck an opening lead, consider what could happen if the winner makes a killing switch. Like in this case, that could end in disaster.

Look at the entire deal:

11 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ 74 ♥ AQ6 ♦ QJ1083 ♣ 863	P 3NT P P P
W West		E East
♠ KQ108 ♥ 873 ♦ K6 ♣ QJ95		♠ 9652 ♥ 1042 ♦ 95 ♣ K1074
	S South	
	♠ AJ3 ♥ KJ95 ♦ A742 ♣ A2	3NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/qsr4bx> , 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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