

♠♥♦♣ **DANGER FROM THE RIGHT** ♠♥♦♣

East deals and passes. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	K4
♥	AQJ1085
♦	73
♣	K73

You have 13 HCP. You can add 3 more points for the 6-card quality heart suit, but you should downgrade the ♠K – the “dubious doubleton.” Still, with 15 “starting points”, you should open 1♥.

Partner responds 1♠ and after you rebid your hearts, he takes a preference to hearts and rebids 3♥. This shows an invitational hand of about 10-12 points. You have a easy raise to 4♥.

West leads the ♦K. What is your plan?

N	North
♠	9652
♥	94
♦	A54
♣	AQJ2

West leads ♦K

S	South
♠	K4
♥	AQJ1085
♦	73
♣	K73

You count your losers. You have 2 potential losers in spades, 1 in hearts and 1 in diamonds. You have two finesses available. If one of these is successful, you make your contract. If the ♠A and ♥K are both in West, though, you go down. Is there a better solution?

Whenever you have an unguarded king, like the spade king in your hand, you have a dangerous opponent. The defender on your right can lead a spade through your king and and if West does hold the ♠A, you lose two spade tricks. But if West leads spades, you always get a spade trick. Therefore, you must keep East off the lead. The best way is to duck the opening lead, keeping the lead in West! You always planned to lose a diamond anyway. It works to your benefit to lose it on the first trick, keeping the ♦A on board to stop a low diamond lead to the East hand.

Now the opponents are cooked. East plays the ♦J to the first trick, promising the ♦10. You win the second diamond in the dummy and run the ♥9 into West's ♥K. If he leads a third diamond to East's ♦10, you ruff and pull the remaining trump. Then you can discard a losing spade on the 4<sup>th</sup> club and claim your 10 tricks. If West doesn't lead the 3<sup>rd</sup> diamond, you regain the lead and pull trump. Your clubs still provide a spade discard.

This is the full deal:

	<b>N</b> North ♠ 9652 ♥ 94 ♦ A54 ♣ AQJ2	W <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> P    P    P    1♥ P    1♠   P    2♥ P    3♥   P    4♥ P    P    P
	<b>W</b> West ♠ A73 ♥ K2 ♦ KQ86 ♣ 10865	<b>E</b> East ♠ QJ108 ♥ 763 ♦ J1092 ♣ 94
	<b>S</b> South ♠ K4 ♥ AQJ1085 ♦ 73 ♣ K73	4♥ S    NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y3m3wnf6> ,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.