

DEVELOP THE 5-CARD SUIT

N	North
♠	854
♥	AQ10974
♦	
♣	A873

You are the dealer in the NORTH seat. This is a hand that on the surface looks like a pass. It has only 10 HCP. But looking deeper, you can see several upgrades. You have a void and voids can produce magic. You also have a 6-card suit with 3 honors. That is called a quality suit. These last two features add 3 points to the high card point count. Now you have an easy 1♥ opening.

East doubles for takeout and partner raises to 2♥. West advances to 2♣ and it's back to you. Your hand has significantly improved. Now that void counts 4 more points; the 6th heart adds another point and finally, the 4-card club suit counts for still another point. Now the hand is worth 19 points. It has almost doubled in value from the time you first picked it up.

You can either jump to 4♥ or make a game invitation of 3♣, which asks partner if he has any help in the club suit. Over East's raise to 3♣, South accepts the invitation and jumps to 4♥. This ends the auction.

East leads the ♦A. What is your plan?

S	South
♠	76
♥	K82
♦	J86543
♣	KJ

East leads ♦A

N	North
♠	854
♥	AQ10974
♦	
♣	A873

South does have help in clubs. The ♣KJ in itself, isn't worth the 4 points we give it, but in conjunction with you're ♣A produces a suit that has no losers and provides an opportunity to take extra tricks by ruffing in the dummy.

Assuming clubs break 4-3, it will be possible to ruff the two losing clubs, pull trump and concede the 3 losing spades. But there is a good possibility for an extra trick, which is important if you are playing in a match pointed duplicate game. Assuming the diamonds also split 4-3, you can arrange to develop your 5th diamond for a spade discard, giving you 11 tricks. These two distributional assumptions are reasonable, since East doubled your 1♥ opening.

To set up those diamonds you will have to ruff the first four diamonds and therefore you will need entries to the dummy. Because of the fortuitous diamond lead, you will need only 4 more entries. These four are available using the ♥K, the ♣K and the two club ruffs. The key to making this overtrick is to ruff in your hand with the ♥9 and higher hearts, saving the ♥74 to be able to lead to dummy's ♥K8; and that the outstanding hearts break 2-2, a 40% probability. Try to take 11 tricks using the link below, but remember to draw 1 round of trump before the final trip to the dummy where you will use the last diamond for the spade discard.

You will note that the diamond lead is the only lead that allows you enough entries to perform this diamond suit promotion. With a more normal spade lead, you will need 5 entries to the dummy which are not available.

This is the entire deal:

D		N North		W N E S	
5		♠ 854 ♥ AQ10974 ♦ ♣ A873		1♥ X 2♥ 2♣ 3♣ 3♠ 4♥ P P P	
W West		E East			
♠ KQJ10 ♥ 65 ♦ K92 ♣ Q964		♠ A932 ♥ J3 ♦ AQ107 ♣ 1052			
		S South			
		♠ 76 ♥ K82 ♦ J86543 ♣ KJ		4♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0	

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

<http://tinyurl.com/ycv5fgdj> , 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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