

DEVELOPING THE EXTRA TRICKS

There are two passes to you and this is your hand:

S	South
♠	Q1043
♥	Q94
♦	AK
♣	A985

You have 15 HCP and a balanced hand. This is a classic 1NT opening. Your partner uses Stayman to ask for a 4-card major and you rebid 2♠. He shows an invitational hand by raising to 3♠. What do you do now?

You have justification for passing. Your hand is a minimum and doesn't have any extra features that argue for accepting the invitation. But this is imp scoring, which, like rubber bridge, rewards a game score. Say you rebid 4♣. After West leads the ♣Q, you see this dummy. What is your plan?

N	North
♠	AJ82
♥	J102
♦	95432
♣	K

West leads ♣Q

S	South
♠	Q1043
♥	Q94
♦	AK
♣	A985

If you pull trump and they fall 3-2 and the ♠K is on side, you have 3 spade tricks and you can use the other two trump separately, for a total 5 tricks.

