

♠♥♦ ♡ DON'T TAKE UNNECESSARY CHANCES ♠♥♦

East is the dealer and passes. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	AJ10763
♥	KJ
♦	92
♣	A95

With 13 HCP and a six-card spade suit, you open 1♠. The opponents are quiet and partner responds 2NT. This is a conventional bid showing 4 or more spades and 13 or more points. It is called "Jacoby 2NT." With this South hand, you would show shortness by bidding that suit at the 3-level; or extra points (18+) by bidding 3♠. With this hand, however, you want to show a weak opener and use the "fast arrival" rebid of 4♠. This ends the auction. West lead the ♦4. What is your plan?

N	North
♠	KQ84
♥	Q64
♦	AQ7
♣	1084

West leads ♦4

S	South
♠	AJ10763
♥	KJ
♦	92
♣	A95

Counting your losers, you have no spade losers, but you do have 1 heart loser, 1 diamond loser and 2 club losers. You might eliminate a diamond loser if the finesse of the ♦Q works. But if it loses, East might switch to clubs. Now, you will surely go down. When you lose to the ♥A, the opposition will cash their two clubs and that will be a 1-trick set.

Another option is to eliminate a loser on the long heart suit. By driving out the ♥A, the ♥Q will provide a parking place for a diamond or club. But you must do

this before they knock out your club stopper. This means you cannot afford to chance the diamond finesse. You must win the ♦A immediately, pull trump making sure there is a high trump left in the dummy, and force the ♥A. Once they take their ♥A, there is nothing that can stop you from taking your 10 tricks.

Look at the entire deal:

14 d	N North ♠ KQ84 ♥ Q64 ♦ AQ7 ♣ 1084	W N E S P 1♦ P 2NT P 4♦ P P P	E East ♠ 92 ♥ 9852 ♦ K105 ♣ KQJ3
W West ♠ 5 ♥ A1073 ♦ J8643 ♣ 762	S South ♠ AJ10763 ♥ KJ ♦ 92 ♣ A95		4♦ S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y3ch9vch> 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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