

♠♥♦♣ DON'T WASTE YOU OPPORTUNITIES ♠♥♦♣

West deals and it's 3 passes to you.

S	South
♠	Q5
♥	A
♦	Q107642
♣	AKQJ

This is a big hand. You have a 6-card suit with two honors (although minor honors), a singleton ace and a solid club suit. I would open 1♦. Partner responds 1♥ and it's back to you. This hand could jump shift to 3♣, but this South chose to rebid 3♦. North bid a forcing 3♠, trying to suggest notrump, but South wasn't interested with his minor heavy hand, and just hoped for the best and rebid 5♦.

West led the ♠J and this was the dummy. How would you play this hand?

N	North
♠	AK42
♥	8764
♦	53
♣	976

West leads ♠J

S	South
♠	Q5
♥	A
♦	Q107642
♣	AKQJ

The only suit where you have losers is diamonds. Therefore, you just need to concentrate on the diamond suit. Since you are missing the ♦AKJ, you can't afford to lead the suit from your hand. You must lead up to your hand and hope that two of the outstanding honors are in the East.

You must win the first spade in the dummy with the ♠A, not the ♠Q in your hand. You need to be in the dummy. Lead a diamond and East will play the ♦9. Cover with your ♦10 and West wins the ♦A. Say West leads another spade. Win the ♠K, even though it covers your ♠Q. You don't need an extra spade trick; you need a successful diamond finesse.

Lead another low diamond. Whatever card East plays, the ♦K or the ♦J, you will be able to take 4 diamond tricks to go along with the 2 spades, 1 heart and 4 clubs tricks – 11 in all.

Look at the entire deal:

D 8	N North	W N E S
	♠ AK42 ♥ 8764 ♦ 53 ♣ 976	P P P 1♦ P 1♥ P 3♦ P 3♠ P 5♦ P P P
W West		E East
♠ J1097 ♥ Q1053 ♦ A8 ♣ 843		♠ 863 ♥ KJ92 ♦ KJ9 ♣ 1052
	S South	
	♠ Q5 ♥ A ♦ Q107642 ♣ AKQJ	5♦ S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y3xkuhqp>, 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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