

♠♥♦♣ **DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES** ♠♥♦♣

Your are the dealer in the South:

S	South
♠	AJ8742
♥	6
♦	A83
♣	K107

You open 1♠ and partner responds 1NT. You are playing a 2/1 game force system, where 1 NT is forcing and doesn't say anything except he has between 6 and 12 points. After your 2♠ rebid, showing a minimum hand with probably 6 spades (although it may be only 5 with a hand that has no other 2-level bid available), your partner raises you to 4♠.

West leads the ♦J. Plan your play to maximize your chances of taking 10 tricks.

N	North
♠	Q106
♥	K105
♦	K75
♣	QJ63

East leads ♦J

S	South
♠	AJ8742
♥	6
♦	A83
♣	K107

Partner has 11 points and spade support. He was planning on jumping to 3♠ after your 2-level rebid. That is called a 3-card limit raise. However, your rebid of 2♠ convinced him to settle for the game he hoped you could make.

You have a possible spade loser as well as a heart loser, a diamond loser and a definite club loser. This is one too many. You can bank everything on a successful spade finesse, but that has only a 50% probability and here, it would fail. West would win and lead another diamond, knocking out your last diamond stopper. When the defenders regain the lead, either in hearts or clubs, they will win their good diamond trick and end up with 4 tricks to set the contract.

Rather than relying on the immediate spade finesse, you can increase your chances by winning the $\heartsuit A$ in your hand and leading a heart up to the $\heartsuit K$ in dummy. If West holds the $\heartsuit A$ and takes it, your $\heartsuit K$ provides a parking place for your diamond loser. If West, instead ducks this lead, the $\heartsuit K$ will win and eliminate the heart loser altogether. If East holds the $\heartsuit A$, then you can fall back on a winning spade finesse to make the contract.

The probability of each finesse is 50%. When you put them together in the correct order, the probability increases to 75%

Look at the entire deal:

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto;">11</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">D</div>	N North \spadesuit Q106 \heartsuit K105 \diamondsuit K75 \clubsuit QJ63	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>1NT</td><td>P</td><td>1\spadesuit</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>3\spadesuit</td><td>P</td><td>2\clubsuit</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>4\spadesuit</td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	1NT	P	1 \spadesuit	P	3 \spadesuit	P	2 \clubsuit	P	P	P	4 \spadesuit
	W	N	E	S														
	P	1NT	P	1 \spadesuit														
	P	3 \spadesuit	P	2 \clubsuit														
P	P	P	4 \spadesuit															
W West \spadesuit K5 \heartsuit AJ74 \diamondsuit J10962 \clubsuit 82	E East \spadesuit 93 \heartsuit Q9832 \diamondsuit Q4 \clubsuit A954																	
S South \spadesuit AJ8742 \heartsuit 6 \diamondsuit A83 \clubsuit K107																		
		4 \spadesuit S NS: 0 EW: 0																

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yx2tbagg> , 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.