

♠♥♦♣ GATHERING EXTRA TRICKS ♠♥♦♣

West is the dealer and passes. Your partner opens 1♦ and East passes. You have this hand:

S	South
♠	KJ4
♥	K762
♦	75
♣	A1032

Whenever partner opens one of a minor, your first duty is to search for a major suit fit. You respond 1♥ and hear partner rebid diamonds. A rebid of his minor shows six diamonds, and less than 4 cards in either major. It is probable that he doesn't even have 3 hearts because he might have supported them with the right kind of hand.

It comes back to you. Do you pass, bid game or invite? Your hand holds 11 HCP so it is too good to pass and not good enough to bid game. Let partner know it is in the "in between" area and invite with 2NT. If he rebids his diamonds you will know he can't tolerate notrump and wants to play in his long suit at the 3-level.

Partner raises your 2NT to 3NT and West leads the ♥Q. The dummy comes down and you see:

N	North
♠	Q53
♥	A
♦	AK6432
♣	J54

West leads ♥Q

S	South
♠	KJ4
♥	K762
♦	75
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Now you must plan the play.

You need 9 tricks and you must count your top tricks. You have 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and a club. You need 4 more tricks which can come from spades and diamonds. Unfortunately, you can't get 4 tricks from either suit alone. Furthermore, the heart lead knocks out your only outside entry to dummy's diamonds. By the time the diamonds get set up, you will have no way to access them.

Your only path to 5 diamond winners is to duck the first diamond trick and hope for a 3-2 split. You must do this immediately on winning the ♥A. When you lead a low diamond from the dummy, East wins his ♦J and returns a heart. Do you win your ♥K or duck? You are going to have to let the opponents in later with their ♠A. Your only hope is that East will hold that card and will have no more hearts to lead back. Therefore, you must not take your ♥K until East plays his last heart. You should anticipate the worst split, 5-3, which tells you to hold up until the 3rd heart lead. You duck and West wins, returning the 3rd heart.

Now you lead your last diamond to the ♦AK and find that you have successfully set up the remaining diamonds. There is nothing else left but to lead a spade. Again, you are fortunate that East rises with the ♠A. He leads back a club which you win. Now you can claim the rest of the tricks – ten in all.

Look at the entire deal:

	N North ♠ Q53 ♥ A ♦ AK6432 ♣ J54	<table border="1"> <tr><td>P</td><td>1♦</td><td>P</td><td>1♥</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>2♦</td><td>P</td><td>2NT</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>3NT</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	P	1♦	P	1♥	P	2♦	P	2NT	P	3NT	P	P	P			
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I must also point out that the opponents could have held you to 9 tricks if West had switched to clubs after winning East's heart lead that you ducked. You can try that yourself using the link below.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/y55e66dx>, 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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