

GO FOR THE OVERTRICK

You are sitting in the South with this hand:

S	South
♠	A53
♥	A9652
♦	Q43
♣	KJ

East dealt and passed. You open 1♥. West is quiet and partner make a 2/1 response of 2♣. You look for a rebid and decide 2NT is the most descriptive. 2♥ would promise 6 hearts and rebids of 2♦ or 2♠ would show at least 4 cards in the suits. Over your minimum rebid, North jumps to 4♥.

West leads the 9♦ and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	6
♥	QJ104
♦	KJ8
♣	A9532

S	South
♠	A53
♥	A9652
♦	Q43
♣	KJ

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Notice that your partner had 11 HCP and 3 dummy points for the spade singleton. He didn't just jump to 4♥ because he didn't know how strong you were. 4♥ is a shut-out bid and can be made with many fewer points. His response was forcing, giving you a chance to show extras that might have encouraged him to explore for slam. Your 2NT was a discouraging bid and provoked the jump to game to say: "If you have only a minimum opener, we only have game values."

In a suit contract you count the losers in your hand: You have 2 spades losers, a possible heart loser and a definite diamond loser. If your plan is to pull all the trump and take your winners, you will take only 10 tricks. When there are 4 outstanding trump, they usually break 3-1. If you play trumps three times, you will have only 1 extra trump to ruff one of the losing spades. The ♥K is off-side and the loss of the ♦A is unavoidable.

This is the full deal:

14 [♠]	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ 6 ♥ QJ104 ♦ KJ8 ♣ A9532		P	2♣	P
	W West		E East		
	♠ K9872 ♥ K73 ♦ 952 ♣ Q8		♠ QJ104 ♥ 8 ♦ A1076 ♣ 10764		
	S South				
	♠ A53 ♥ A9652 ♦ Q43 ♣ KJ				
			4♥ S		NS: 0 EW: 0

If you want to get the overtrick, you need to ruff both spade losers. Therefore, a careful declarer will notice that there is limited number of entries to the dummy. To conserve those entries, he should win the first diamond in the dummy (If East doesn't put up the ♦A, which he shouldn't) and play the ♠A and ruff a spade. Then he leads the ♥Q, letting

it run. West will win his ♥K and probably return a diamond. East will win the ♦A and switch to clubs. You win the ♣K and ruff another spade. Now you can pull the remaining trump and claim.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/z4o8wez> 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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