

## ♠♥♦♣ GUARANTEERING YOUR CONTRACT ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer in the South:

S	South
♠	J942
♥	AK2
♦	A83
♣	A95

You open 1NT and it gets passed out. West leads the ♥5. Is there any way of guaranteeing your contract?

N	North
♠	108
♥	764
♦	K752
♣	K743

East leads ♥5

S	South
♠	J942
♥	AK2
♦	A83
♣	A95

The first thing you should notice is that you have 6 top tricks; 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. You need only 1 more trick. It can come from either 4-card minor if one or both of them break 3-3. There is only a 35% probability that either suit will break evenly. Is there a better way?

Yes, there is and it doesn't involve either minor suit. You can get one spade winner through length. You win the first heart and lead a spade to the dummy's ♠10. East will probably win and return a heart. You win and lead a second spade to the ♠8. West will win and run his remaining 3 hearts. But then he will have to lead a minor suit. You win and lead your third spade – the ♠J. They will win this but again, they will have to lead a minor suit. Whichever suit they lead,

you will win and can now play the fourth spade – the ♠9 which is guaranteed to be a winner. You make your 1NT contract.

Look at the entire deal:

11		N North	W N E S
D		♠ 108 ♥ 764 ♦ K752 ♣ K743	1NT P P P
W West	E East		
♠ A7 ♥ Q10853 ♦ Q9 ♣ Q1082	♠ KQ653 ♥ J9 ♦ J1064 ♣ J6		
		S South	
		♠ J942 ♥ AK2 ♦ A83 ♣ A95	1NT S NS: 0 EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/wzexkm4> , 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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