

KEEP COMPETING WHEN NOT VULNERABLE

Nobody is vulnerable. West deals and opens 1♣. Your partner passes and East raises to 3♣. This double raise is explained as a weak club raise. A single raise to 2 would show a limit raise in clubs, so 3♣ means length in clubs and less than 11 points. Both possible bids by East deny a 4-card major but promise at least 5 clubs. This is a convention called "inverted minors." That is, the responder is inverting the meaning of a single and double raise.

S	South
♠	A975
♥	A862
♦	K965
♣	3

You have 11 HCP and support for all the other suits. If you double and partner bids a suit, you will have another 3 points for the singleton club. This is the classic shape for the takeout double. But over your double, West redoubles. This shouldn't affect your partner intended bid. He advances with 3♦. This is passed around to West who rebids 4♣ which is passed around to you. What would you do?

You know you have at least an 8-card diamond fit. You also know that East is weak with a long club suit which you can handle after the first club lead. Most important is the fact that you are not vulnerable. Pushing them with a competitive 4♦ bid might result in a set. But a 1-trick set is less than their making 4♣.

Your 4♦ bid is passed out and East leads the ♣K. Take over from North and plan the play:

N	North
♠	104
♥	K1054
♦	A10874
♣	84

East leads ♣K

S	South
♠	A975
♥	A862
♦	K965
♣	3

You have an unavoidable loser in each of the black suits. If the hearts break 3-2, you can limit the suit to 1 loser. If the diamonds split in the expected 3-1, you can get home with only 1 loser in the trump suit; 4 in all, for down one.

The opponents win the first club and continue clubs. You ruff in the dummy and lead a low diamond to your hand. West puts up the ♦Q which you win with the ♦K. This is a strange play on West's part. Holding the ♦Q doubleton, the correct action is to play low. You must plan on the ♦Q being singleton and the ♦J3 being left in the East hand. Lead a low diamond and if East plays low, insert the ♦9. This holds and now you have no losers in diamonds.

You now play the ♥AK and find that they split 3-2. You've held your losers to three and you make your contract for +130.

This is the entire deal:

8	N North	W	N	E	S
	♠ 104 ♥ K1054 ♦ A10874 ♣ 84	1♣ P XX 3♦ 4♣ P P P P	P	3♣	X P P
W West		E East			
♠ QJ32 ♥ QJ3 ♦ Q ♣ AJ762		♠ K86 ♥ 97 ♦ J32 ♣ KQ1095			
	S South				
	♠ A975 ♥ A862 ♦ K965 ♣ 3	4♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

Notice that West can only make 3♣ but the penalty for bidding 4♣ would only have been 50 (or 100 if double); less than your score for making 4♦.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/l972rgd> , 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. If you click on GIB, the software will analyze the hand and show the result for each opening lead.