

Looking For A Minor Suit Slam

<p>North Deals None Vul</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 8 7 5 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ Q 9 6 ♣ 9</p>		<p>♠ A K 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ J 8 5 3 ♣ A 7 5 4</p> <p>♠ — ♥ A Q 6 5 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ K Q 10 6 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 4 ♥ J 9 8 4 ♦ K 10 7 4 ♣ J 8</p>																																
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"><i>West</i></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"><i>North</i></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"><i>East</i></th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"><i>South</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♦</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♣</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3N</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">4N</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">5♥</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">6♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="padding: 5px;">All pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♦	Pass	1♥	2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass	3N	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass	4N	Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣	All pass						
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Bidding Commentary:

My partner opens 1♦ and I'm looking at a hand that says, "6-5 Come Alive" I'm immediately energized. I make a forcing response of 1♥ and my LHO, not surprisingly, jumps to 2♠. Partner fades out and it's my bid again. I make a takeout double. My partner is expected to either bid the unbid suit or rebid his diamonds. He could even take a preference to my hearts. Theoretically, he could pass and convert to penalty. But this is very dangerous over a weak two bid. West's bid indicates 5 spade tricks. It wouldn't be too hard for him to scrape up another three tricks. Even if he is set 1 trick, the score won't compensate for even a part score our way.

Partner bids 3♣ and I'm looking at a possible slam. I hold 14 HCP but my length in hearts and clubs, plus the quality club suit and the void in spades, make the hand worth more like 22 points. I realize my partner has a minimum opener, but I must continue to make forcing bids until we reach slam.

I cue bid spades to show support for clubs and slam interest. North rebids 3NT, which pretty much describes his hand. I start control suit bidding with my rebid of 4♣. After partner control bids spades I launch into Key Card Blackwood for clubs. I realize this may be futile since I have a void and won't know which Ace he has if he reports only one key card. But luckily, he shows two aces. I bid the slam I think I can make.

Play Commentary:

East leads his partner's spade suit and I assess the prospects for taking 12 tricks. I like to count winners when I'm in a slam contract. I have two spade tricks, a heart, a diamond and 6 clubs. I need two more. They can come from two heart ruffs in my hand, the hand with the shorter number of clubs.

I win the ♠A, discarding a diamond and can afford to pull two rounds of trump, ending in my hand. This clears the suit. I then lead the ♠K, discarding a heart from the dummy. I lead a heart to finesse the queen. This loses to West, but I can win any return and play the ♥A and ruff a heart. I return to the board with the ♦A and ruff the second heart. Now I have made my minor suit slam.