

♠♥♦♣ **LOSER ON LOSER** ♠♥♦♣

Your partner opens 1NT. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	AQJ10764
♥	Q83
♦	962
♣	

You have that rare thing – a seven card suit. You know you want to play in spades and even though you have only 9 HCP, your length and your void make it worth much more. You and your partner play Texas Transfers. Your response of 4♥ is a transfer to 4♠ with no desire to play any higher.

East leads the ♦8. Take over for North to plan this game contract of 4♠.

S	South
♠	AQJ10764
♥	Q83
♦	962
♣	

East leads ♦8

N	North
♠	K5
♥	K95
♦	A103
♣	KQ743

You want to count losers in the hand with the long trump. This is called, reversing the dummy. You have no spade losers, but you do have two heart and 2 diamond losers. It also helps to count winners. You have 7 spades and 1 diamond winner. You can develop 1 heart and 1 club. That's 10 tricks. The trick will be to take your 10 winners before the opponents can take their 4 winners.

This calls for a loser on loser play. You know that one of your club honors will be lost to defenders. Therefore, win the ♦A and immediately lead the ♣K. If East puts up the ♣A you will ruff in South. Then get back to your hand using the ♠K and discard one of North's losers on your ♣Q. If East plays low to the ♣K, don't ruff but rather, ditch a heart or diamond from the dummy. You were always expecting to lose the ♣K, but by playing a loser on it, you are collapsing two losers into one trick. This is what we call a loser on loser play.

Notice that if you pulled trump first, you would have no way to get back to your hand before the defenders took their two diamond winners. Those two, plus the two outstanding aces would have resulted in a set.

Look at the entire deal:

D 1	N North	W N E S
	♠ K5	1NT P 4♥
	♥ K95	P 4♣ P P
	♦ A103	P
	♣ KQ743	
W West	E East	
♠ 3	♠ 982	
♥ J76	♥ A1042	
♦ KQJ74	♦ 85	
♣ A1085	♣ J962	
S South		
♠ AQJ10764		
♥ Q83		
♦ 962		
♣		
	4♣ N	NS: 0 EW: 0

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

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