

PLAYING BROKEN SUITS

With this nice 16 HCP balanced hand, you have an easy 1NT opening.

S	South
♠	AK63
♥	J652
♦	AJ6
♣	K7

Your partner transfers you into hearts and then rebids 3NT, showing exactly 5 hearts and 10 or more points.

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Since you have a known 9-card trump fit, you should convert to the safer 4♥ contract.

West leads a trump and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	J2
♥	KQ1087
♦	Q109
♣	J102

West leads ♥9

S	South
♠	AK63
♥	J652
♦	AJ6
♣	K7

You see two spade losers that can be ruffed in the dummy, 1 unavoidable heart loser and 1 unavoidable club loser. You will lose a diamond if the $\heartsuit K$ is off side. And if so, you cannot afford another club loser.

The opponents are expecting you to get extra tricks by ruffing, so they lead a trump. But you don't mind because you have plenty of trump to both pull them and use them for ruffing losing tricks. East wins the $\heartsuit A$ and returns another heart. You win the second heart, having cleared the suit. You can take your two spades and ruff the 3rd spade in the dummy. You might as well run the diamond finesse to know what your problem will be in the club suit.

Sure enough, the $\heartsuit K$ is in West and now you must bring the clubs in for no more than 1 loser. The odds favor the placement of the $\clubsuit A$ and $\clubsuit Q$ in separate hands. But your honor holding in the dummy should suggest the winning play.

Lead the $\clubsuit J$ after you trump the second low spade. If East covers with the $\clubsuit Q$, play the $\clubsuit K$ and hope West will win the $\clubsuit A$. If East plays low, let the $\clubsuit J$ ride. Here, this technique will work. West will either have to use his $\clubsuit A$ on his partner's $\clubsuit Q$, making your $\heartsuit 10$ good; or he will have to use his $\clubsuit A$ on your $\clubsuit J$ giving you the 10th trick with your $\heartsuit K$.

This is the entire deal:

11 D	N North	W	N	E	S
	\heartsuit J2 \heartsuit KQ1087 \heartsuit Q109 \heartsuit J102	P	2 \heartsuit	P	1NT 2 \heartsuit
W West		P	3NT	P	4 \heartsuit
\heartsuit 954 \heartsuit 94 \heartsuit K8753 \heartsuit A95		P	P	P	
	S South	E East			
	\heartsuit AK63 \heartsuit J652 \heartsuit AJ6 \heartsuit K7	\heartsuit Q1087 \heartsuit A3 \heartsuit 42 \heartsuit Q8643			
			4 \heartsuit S	NS: 0 EW: 0	

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

<http://tinyurl.com/jv3puw3> , 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.

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