

## ♠♥♦♣ SLOW LOSER YIELDS EXTRA TRICK ♠♥♦♣

East dealt and passed. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	A108743
♥	765
♦	642
♣	A

Eight HCP and a six-card Spade suit. What do you think?

When I teach beginners, I tell them that the suit they pre-empt with for their "Weak-Two" should be sound. It must have a 6 cards and two of the top 3; or 3 of the top 5 honors. It shouldn't have a void or a 4+ card Major on the side. We all know that this requirement is too restrictive. It's fun to pre-empt and it effective, aslo.

This South opens 2♠. The opponents are silent and parner respondes 2NT.

Not only do Weak-Two openers have insufficient honor cards, sometimes they only have a 5-card suit. Partner's 2NT response is not natural, but rather, is a request for South to further describe your hand. This used to mean, "tell me if you have an Ace or King on the side, partner." Now the responder also wants to know if you pre-empted with a 5-card suit; and how many points do you have in your hand.

The method for conveying this information is conventional and is called Ogust. South's rebids are:

3♣	5-7 points and a 5-card Spade suit
3♦	5-7 points and a 6-card Spade suit
3♥	8-10 points and a 5-card Spade suit
3♠	8-10 points and a 6-card Spade suit.

Note: 1-Some play this with the 3♦ and 3♥ meaning reversed  
2- All of these responses are Alerted. The 2NT asking bid is not Alerted

South should be able to rebid 3♠ and North takes it to game – 4♠.

West's leads the ♠6 and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	KQJ9
♥	843
♦	AK53
♣	K5

West's Lead: ♠6

S	South
♠	A108743
♥	765
♦	642
♣	A

Counting losers, you have 3 Heart and 1 Diamond losers in your hand. But if you count winners, you have 6 Spades, 2 Diamonds a 2 Clubs. The reason for the extra winner is that you can discard one of the losers on the dummy's ♣K.

Ten tricks seems like a lock. It's now time to look for the overtrick that others declaring this hand might miss and will give you a better score. You have three "fast" losers (the Hearts) and 1 slow loser (the Diamond). Usually, when you discard a loser, you discard one of the fast losers. But here, the opposite is true. You must discard the Diamond!

Why do you think your chances for an overtrick are better by discarding a Diamond than they are by discarding a Heart?

Because you have seven Diamonds and only 6 Hearts. Therefore, the diamond suit gives you a small probability that the outstanding cards will break 3-3 (36%), allowing you to discard a heart on the 4<sup>th</sup> diamond. But as soon as you give up the lead, the opponents will take their 3 Hearts. This requires you to discard that losing Diamond so you can ruff the 3<sup>rd</sup> Diamond, should they break favorably.

This overtrick is only possible because they didn't lead a Heart to start with. There is nothing in the bidding that suggests that a trump lead would be effective lead. Why did West lead a Diamond? Perhaps because leading any of the other suits threatened to give away a trick.

This is the entire deal:

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">2</div>	<b>N North</b> ♠ KQJ9 ♥ 843 ♦ AK53 ♣ K5	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	P	2NT	P	2♠	P	4♠	P	3♠	P		P	P
	W	N	E	S														
P	2NT	P	2♠															
P	4♠	P	3♠															
P		P	P															
<b>W West</b> ♠ 65 ♥ KJ9 ♦ Q98 ♣ Q10632	<b>E East</b> ♠ 2 ♥ AQ102 ♦ J107 ♣ J9874																	
	<b>S South</b> ♠ A108743 ♥ 765 ♦ 642 ♣ A	4♠ S      NS: 0 EW: 0																

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

<https://tinyurl.com/ygpshbed>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.