

♠♥♦♣ TAKE IT EASY ♠♥♦♣

Your partner is the dealer and opens 1♦. East passes and you have a call:

| | |
|---|-------|
| S | South |
| ♠ | K73 |
| ♥ | AJ5 |
| ♦ | K72 |
| ♣ | KQJ6 |

You have 17 HCP, so you know game is in the bag and slam is on the horizon. You want to make a forcing 2 over 1 bid to find out more about partner's hand. You should respond 2♣. Partner rebids 2NT. This could be either 12-14 HCP balanced hand or 18-19 HCP. He could have the run of the mill minimum opening, or a hand that was too strong to open 1NT and was planning on rebidding 2NT over your 1-level response, to show his big hand. Since you don't know his hand, you should assume it is a minimum and raise to 3NT.

Your partner now shows a big hand and jumps to 6NT.

East leads the ♥10. Take over for North and plan for taking 12 tricks

| | |
|---|-------|
| S | South |
| ♠ | K73 |
| ♥ | AJ5 |
| ♦ | K72 |
| ♣ | KQJ6 |

East leads ♥10

| | |
|---|-------|
| N | North |
| ♠ | A6 |
| ♥ | KQ8 |
| ♦ | AJ53 |
| ♣ | A874 |

You have more than enough HCP's to make 6NT. The only problem is that you have only 11 top tricks. You have 2 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and 4 clubs. The only suit available for extra tricks is the diamond suit. It looks like you

have to finesse the $\spadesuit J$, hoping that the $\spadesuit Q$ is in West. That has only a 50% probability and will fail in this deal.

You don't have to be in a big hurry to take this finesse. Rather, you should play the $\spadesuit A$ and $\spadesuit K$. If the queen falls, then your $\spadesuit J$ is your 12th trick. If it doesn't fall under the first two diamonds, you can then lead up to the $\spadesuit J$. You are still finessing West, but by first playing for the drop, you are increasing your chances somewhat. Even if the finesse loses, you can still survive if the diamonds split 3-3, since your 4th diamond will be a winner. The only way you lose is if East holds 4 diamonds including the $\spadesuit Q$. You can chalk that up to bad luck 😊

Look at the entire deal:

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| D | | N North | | W N E S | |
| 1 | | \spadesuit A6 | \spadesuit 1 | \spadesuit P | \spadesuit 2 |
| | | \heartsuit KQ8 | P | 2NT | P |
| | | \diamondsuit AJ53 | P | 6NT | P |
| | | \clubsuit A874 | P | P | P |
| W West | | E East | | | |
| \spadesuit J1092 | | \spadesuit Q854 | | | |
| \heartsuit 72 | | \heartsuit 109643 | | | |
| \diamondsuit 10964 | | \diamondsuit Q8 | | | |
| \clubsuit 953 | | \clubsuit 102 | | | |
| S South | | | | 6NT N NS: 0 EW: 0 | |
| | | \spadesuit K73 | | | |
| | | \heartsuit AJ5 | | | |
| | | \diamondsuit K72 | | | |
| | | \clubsuit KQJ6 | | | |

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

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