

## ♠♥♦♣ THE LOGIC IN COUNTING ♠♥♦♣

West is the dealer and passes. So does your partner and East. This is your hand:

S	undefined
♠	96
♥	AQ987
♦	Q9
♣	K1063

You could decide to pass this hand out. You have only 11 HCP and 2 spades. The chances are high that the opponents will overcall in spades and will be able to outbid you for a part score. On the other hand, your hearts are looking good and you have a 4-card side suit with the clubs.

You throw caution to the wind and open 1♥ hoping to be left alone to make a part score in the major suit. You are a little aghast when your partner, a passed hand, jumps to 4♥!

West leads the ♦AK and a third diamond to his partner's ♦J

N	undefined
♠	K53
♥	KJ10
♦	6542
♣	AJ9

West's Lead: ♦A

S	undefined
♠	96
♥	AQ987
♦	Q9
♣	K1063

You ruff the third diamond. What is your plan to take 10 tricks?

You can see why your partner jumped to game. He has a near opening hand himself with 3 honors in the trump suit.

You have 2 spade losers, 2 diamond losers and a possible club loser. You can't do anything about the diamond losers because they are already lost. You will try to finesse the ♠K and then the contract will depend on you finding the ♣Q.

After gaining the lead, you pull trump in 3 rounds, ending in your hand. When you lead a low spade to your dummy, the ♠K holds. Yes, the ♠A is in West. But who holds the ♣Q?

You have all the clues to answer that question. West has now shown up with the  $\heartsuit AK$  and the  $\spadesuit A$ . That's 11 HCP. If she had the  $\clubsuit Q$ , that would be 13 and she would have opened in the 1<sup>st</sup> seat. Therefore, the  $\clubsuit Q$  must be in East.

You lead the  $\clubsuit A$  and then finesse the  $\clubsuit 10$  in your hand. The clubs split 3-3 and you end with 1 spade, 5 hearts and 4 club tricks.

You almost always benefit by counting points around the table when one of your opponents enters the bidding. Even when they are silent throughout the auction, you can use that information to place the missing honors.

This is the entire deal:

8	<b>N</b> $\heartsuit K53$ $\spadesuit KJ10$ $\diamonds 6542$ $\clubsuit AJ9$																	
<b>W</b> $\heartsuit A1082$ $\spadesuit 52$ $\diamonds AK107$ $\clubsuit 872$	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1<math>\heartsuit</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4<math>\heartsuit</math></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	Pass	Pass	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	Pass	Pass	Pass				<b>E</b> $\heartsuit QJ74$ $\spadesuit 643$ $\diamonds J83$ $\clubsuit Q54$
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Pass	Pass	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$															
Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	Pass	Pass															
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You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yhm6y7h6>, 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.