

THE LOGIC OF THE BIDDING

You are South and your LHO opens 1♠, Your partner passes and East raises 2♠. What would you do with this hand?

South
♠ A8
♥ AJ10854
♦ KJ3
♣ J8

Your hand is too good to do nothing. Allowing the opponents to play in a comfortable 2-level contract is usually a bad thing. You bid your long suit, 3♥. West raises, competitively, to 3♠ and your partner offers a 4♥ bid. This is passed out. West leads the ♠4 and you see this dummy:

	North	
	♠ Q5	
	♥ Q976	
	♦ A10	
	♣ 95432	
West		East
♠4		
	South	
	♠ A8	
	♥ AJ10854	
	♦ KJ3	
	♣ J8	

When declaring a suit contract it easiest to count losers. You have 1 spade, 1 heart, 1 diamond and 2 club losers. You can trump a diamond in the dummy, but if the ♥K is offside and sits doubleton, you must eliminate the spade loser. You put up the ♠Q and hope. No luck. East puts in the ♠K. Any ideas?

Whenever the opponents open it often pays to count high card points before you start. You and your partner hold 22 and you can figure West for at least 12. That leaves a maximum of 6 for East. You've already seen three of them in the ♠K.

The next question you should ask yourself is why did West lead from a suit headed by the ♠J rather than a top club? He surely would have led a club if the suit was headed by ♣AKQ, ♣AK or even ♣KQ. He must not hold the ♣K. But if East has the ♣K than he can't have any other honors. You must play West for the ♦Q. Win the first trick with the ♠A and lead a low diamond up to the ♦10. If West plays low, the ♦10 holds. Play the ♦A

and come back you your hand with the ♥A and discard the losing spade on the good ♦K.

Now you magically eliminated both the losing diamond and the losing spade with the same maneuver.

This was a case of listening to the bidding and applying basic logic to devise a plan for making a 22 HCP game.

This is the entire hand:

D 8	N North	W N E S
	♠ Q5 ♥ Q976 ♦ A10 ♣ 95432	1♠ P 2♠ 3♥ 3♠ 4♥ P P P
W West		E East
♠ J97432 ♥ K3 ♦ Q85 ♣ AQ		♠ K106 ♥ 2 ♦ 97642 ♣ K1076
	S South	
	♠ A8 ♥ AJ10854 ♦ KJ3 ♣ J8	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/kkkyrv3>, 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.