

♠♥♦♣ A 2 OVER 1 AUCTION ♠♥♦♣

You pick up the nice hand that your partner dealt you. You plan to open 1NT when the bid comes around to you. But you are pleasantly surprised when partner opens 1♠. East passes and it's your turn bid:

S	undefined
♠	K8
♥	Q109
♦	A64
♣	AQ876

Some might respond 3NT if that response shows 15-17 balanced points. But that would be wrong. You and your partner are playing the popular 2/1 Game Force system, where a response of 2♣ assures you that partner will not stop until some game is reached, and leaves the auction open to investigating slam possibilities.

Partner's rebid is 2♠. This could show a 6-card suit, but could also be only 5 cards and the inability to bid something else. Rebidding 2NT would show 5 spades, but would also show diamonds and heart stoppers. In a 2/1 sequence, the rebid of opener's major doesn't promise 6 cards.

By the way, there is a school of thought that plays it just the opposite. The rebid of the major absolutely promises six and the rebid of 2NT doesn't promise stoppers in all the unbid suits. I recommend it be played in the former style.

Now it's time to rebid your hand. This is where you show the notrumpish hand you hold and rebid 2NT. This, of course, is 100% forcing and also a stalling bid, waiting for partner to clarify her previous bid. This is the beauty of the 2/1 system. It leaves plenty of room for exploration and obviates the need for space consuming jumps as forcing bids.

In this deal, partner rebids 3NT. This says she really has only 5 spades and is willing to play in a 3NT game. With your hand, I would pass. You don't have a source of tricks. All you suits require some degree of development. Overtricks might be just as good or better than risking a slam contract.

This is the bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
All	3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♥4. What is your plan?

N	undefined
♠	AQ432
♥	K73
♦	J53
♣	K9

West leads ♥4

S	undefined
♠	K8
♥	Q109
♦	A64
♣	AQ876

You count your top tricks. You have 3 spades, 1 diamond and 3 clubs. The heart lead can give you an extra heart trick. But if either black suit breaks 3-3, you have 2 extra tricks in that suit.

You play a low heart from the dummy and East takes his ♥A. He leads back a heart and you win the ♥K. Now you test the black suits, starting with the spades. You win the first trick with the ♠K and play off the ♠AQ. Bingo, the suit does break 3-3. You take your two extra spade tricks and go to work on clubs, unblocking the ♣K and leading a club to your hand.

Unexpectedly, the clubs also brake 3-3 and you take all the remaining tricks, making 6NT. You were very lucky with the splits and you were also fortunate that West didn't lead the ♦K, because that would have resulted in another diamond loser once you lost the ♥A to East.

This is the full deal:

D	N	W	N	E	S
1	♠ AQ432 ♥ K73 ♦ J53 ♣ K9		1♠	P	2♣
		P	2♠	P	2NT
		P	3NT	P	P
		P			
W	E				
♠ 1075 ♥ J654 ♦ KQ8 ♣ 543	♠ J96 ♥ A82 ♦ 10972 ♣ J102				
	S				
	♠ K8 ♥ Q109 ♦ A64 ♣ AQ876				
		3NT S		NS: 0	EW: 0

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

<https://tinyurl.com/yabh7cuY>, 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.