

ADJUST YOUR PLAN TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES

You are dealt this hand and your 6-card suit and void in clubs provokes you to open 1♥

South
 ♠QJ2
 ♥AK5432
 ♦6532
 ♣-----

The bidding continues:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Dbl	Redbl (1)	Pass (2)	Pass (3)
2♣	Pass (4)	3♣ (5)	3♥ (6)
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

- (1) After his RHO's double, North's first obligation is to show his partner he has 10+ points. His redouble says, "We have the balance of the points here so we are either going to take the contract or double the opponents in theirs." All future passes are forcing until one of those two conditions are met.
- (2) East would have been forced to advance his partner's double but the redouble takes him off the hook. He'll let his partner suggest the strain and, at the same time, lets him know he has a minimum hand.
- (3) You wouldn't mind playing in 1♥ redoubled, so you pass and awaits further developments.
- (4) North's pass says he doesn't have 3-card heart support and has the minimum for his previous bid – 10 points.
- (5) East must have clubs and enough points to compete.
- (6) You can rebid the 6-card heart suit and you hope the void in their suit will protect you at the 3-level.

You are surprised that your partner carries on to 4♥. West leads the ♣A, and you see this dummy:

	North
	♠A743
	♥76
	♦AQ4
	♣7653
West	
♣A	
	South
	♠QJ2
	♥AK5432
	♦6532
	♣-----

Time to make a plan. You have 1 spade loser, 1 heart loser (assuming a 3-2 split), 2 diamond losers (assuming West, the doubler, has the $\heartsuit K$) and no club losers. Things don't look so promising. Maybe something good will happen.

You start by trumping the initial club lead and testing trump with the $\heartsuit A$. West discards a low club. Uh-oh! East started with 5 hearts, $\heartsuit QJ1098$. Time to re-plan.

Let's look at the hand from North's position. This is called a "dummy reversal." North has 2 spade losers, no heart losers, 1 diamond loser, and 4 club losers, all of which can be ruffed in your hand. If the missing spade and diamond honor cards reside with West and the distribution of the side suits is not too unbalanced, this plan can work. But you'll need three more trips to the dummy to ruff the remaining 3 clubs. You have the $\spadesuit A$ and the two diamond honors. When leading to the $\spadesuit A$, it doesn't hurt to lead the $\spadesuit Q$. Whether West covers with the $\spadesuit K$ or not, you always get two spade tricks.

This is the complete board:

11 D	N North	W N E S
	\spadesuit A743 \heartsuit 76 \diamondsuit AQ4 \clubsuit 7653	1 \heartsuit X XX P P 2 \clubsuit P 3 \clubsuit 3 \heartsuit P 4 \heartsuit P P D
W West		E East
\spadesuit K1086 \heartsuit \diamondsuit KJ107 \clubsuit AK1042		\spadesuit 95 \heartsuit QJ1098 \diamondsuit 98 \clubsuit QJ98
	S South	
	\spadesuit QJ2 \heartsuit AK5432 \diamondsuit 6532 \clubsuit	4 \heartsuit S NS: 0 EW: 0

If you would like to see the whole hand played out, click on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/kmlhx8g>. Or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick.

Actually, the bad break in hearts helped you. It forced you to re-plan the play using a dummy reversal and you saw how you can collapse a four loser hand to three. Another way of looking at the hand: you have 2 spade winners, 2 heart winners, 2 diamond winners and 4 club ruffs. That's 10 tricks in all.