

♠♥♦♣ BRINGING HOME 3NT ♠♥♦♣

West is the dealer and passes. So do North and East. This is your South hand:

S	euvid
♠	AQ
♥	AK532
♦	32
♣	QJ63

You might consider opening this 16-pointer with 1NT. It is not quite balanced, but the spade doubleton holds two stoppers with a spade lead by West. However, say you make the normal opening of 1♥. Partner responds 1NT and you show your second suit. Do you jump to 3♣ to show your extras or draw back in with 2♣?

Partner has limited his hand to 12 points (playing 2/1 GF). However, he can be as low as 6 points. You take the more conservative approach and bid 2♣. Now he makes an invitational bid of 2NT. He is showing less than 3 Hearts and 5 Clubs. With 3 Hearts he would have shown his fit; with 5 Clubs, he would have shown the Club fit (you can have as few as 3 Clubs for your bid). The important information he has imparted is that he holds a good 10 to 12 points. You readily accept his invitation and raise him to 3NT.

East leads the ♠10. Take over for North and try to make 3NT.

S	euvid
♠	AQ
♥	AK532
♦	32
♣	QJ63

East's Lead: ♠10

N	euvid
♠	KJ6
♥	Q4
♦	J109865
♣	K4

You must first count your top tricks. You have 3 Spades and 3 Heart tricks. You can get 2 more tricks by promoting the Clubs. You still need 1 more trick for your contract.

You have 7 cards in the Heart suit. If the outstanding Hearts split 3-3, you can get two extra trick there. If they split 4-2, you can pick up the one trick you need.

Unfortunately, this line of play will lead to defeat!

Did you notice that the opponents have 3 top Diamond tricks as well as the ♣A? If the Hearts do split 4-2, that will give them the 5th trick in the heart suit. The only way of making this contract is to start on Diamonds immediately. The defenders will take three Diamond tricks, but you'll have dummy's 3 small Diamonds to fulfill the contract. And, you will have transportation to access them.

If the defenders win the first Diamond and switch, you will win whatever suit they lead and put them back in with another Diamond. If they switch again, start playing the Hearts and set up the Club suit. You will eventually come to 9 tricks when they end-play themselves.

This is the entire deal:

N euvid 5+	♠KJ6	♥Q4	♦J109865	♣K4
W euvid 5+	♠32	♥10976	♦A4	♣A10987
E euvid 5+	♠1098754	♥J8	♦KQ7	♣52
S euvid 5+	♠AQ	♥AK532	♦32	♣QJ63

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

3NT	North
0	0

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