

♠♥♦♣ **DON'T FORGET THE FINESSE** ♠♥♦♣

The dealer is North and he passes, as does East. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	A106542
♥	AQJ
♦	7
♣	AK5

You have 18 HCP and 2 length points. With 20 total points, you should keep the concept of "slam" in your mind. You don't need much from your partner. You open 1♠ and wait to hear the response.

West passes and your partner makes a limit raise to 3♠. Now your hand improves. Your singleton Diamond adds 2 more points and you can add another point for the 6-card trump suit. You have enough points for a small slam and you have all the suits controlled. You could just jump to 6♠. However, it wouldn't cost you anything to find out about the Ace of Diamonds and the ♠K. You inquire with 4NT and partner tells you he has one key card; either the ♦A or the ♠K. You bid 6♠.

West leads the ♦10 and partner lays down this dummy:

N	North
♠	Q873
♥	10963
♦	AQ
♣	QJ10

West's Lead: ♦10

S	South
♠	A106542
♥	AQJ
♦	7
♣	AK5

You may have a Heart loser and one or two Spade losers. If you try the Heart finesse and it loses, you have to hope that the ♠K is singleton and must lay down the ♠A. However, if the Heart finesse wins, you can afford to lose a Spade. You just can afford to lose two Spades.

