

♠♥♦♣ HOW ABOUT A LITTLE SQUEEZE? ♠♥♦♣

You dealt and open this hand 1NT:

S	South
♠	KJ
♥	A97
♦	K764
♣	KQJ5

Partner raises you to 3NT and that becomes the final contract. West leads the ♥5. How are you going to take 9 tricks?

N	North
♠	AQ
♥	104
♦	J10532
♣	A1096

West's Lead: ♥5

S	South
♠	KJ
♥	A97
♦	K764
♣	KQJ5

This doesn't look too difficult. You have 7 top tricks: 2 spades, 1 heart and 4 clubs. You need to take 2 more tricks and they must come from the diamond suit. You have 9 diamonds and a normal split should result in 2 diamond winners.

You hold up your ♥A until the 3rd trick. Then you lead a club to the dummy and play a low diamond to your ♦K. If West holds the ♦A there is no hope, so you play for the only lie of the ♦A that can allow you to make your contract.

East plays the ♦8. The good news is that the ♦K wins. The bad news is that West discards. The diamonds have broken 4-0 and you cannot force your way to another diamond trick. East holds the ♦AQ9 and they are sitting over dummy's ♦J1053. Also, you can't set up the 5th diamond because by that time the opponents spades will have been set up.

But notice that East started with 3 hearts and 4 diamonds, and therefore he has 6 cards in the black suits. You also have 6 cards in the black suits – and they are all

winners. If you play them all out, East will be squeezed. He cannot discard any diamonds without losing his advantage. He must play and/or discard spades and clubs. On trick 10 you will lead the $\heartsuit J$. East can take his $\heartsuit A$ and $\heartsuit Q$, but eventually will have to lead his $\heartsuit 9$ to your dummy's $\heartsuit 10$.

This is the entire deal:

11 D		N North		E East	
W West		W	N	E	S
\spadesuit 96532 \heartsuit Q8652 \diamondsuit \clubsuit 832		\spadesuit AQ \heartsuit 104 \diamondsuit J10532 \clubsuit A1096		\spadesuit 10874 \heartsuit KJ3 \diamondsuit AQ98 \clubsuit 74	
		S South		3NT South	
		\spadesuit KJ \heartsuit A97 \diamondsuit K764 \clubsuit KQJ5		0 0	
		W N E S 1NT Pass 3NT Pass Pass Pass			

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ygmx787g>, 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.