

♠♥♦♣ MANAGING SPLITS AND ENTRIES ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer in South and this is your hand:

S	South
♠A5	
♥A	
♦K107543	
♣AK103	

You almost have enough to open 2♣, but you make the normal opening of 1♦. The opponents are silent and your partner responds 1♥. This is a hand good enough for a jump shift to 3♣. The jump shift shows 19-21 points and is game forcing, describing your two suited hand.

Your partner raises to 4♣. This is very encouraging. You have 4 of the 5 key cards. You could be scientific about approaching slam, but you bid what you think you can make – 6♣.

West leads the ♠K and you get a look at this dummy:

N	North
♠109	
♥KJ953	
♦QJ	
♣QJ42	

Lead: ♠K

S	South
♠A5	
♥A	
♦K107543	
♣AK103	

At first blush, this doesn't look too difficult. You will win the ♠A, unblock the ♥A, pull trump and go to the dummy to dump your ♠5 on the good ♥K. Then you will force out the ♦A and take the remaining diamonds.

If you carry out this plan you will go down. You get the expected 3-2 break in clubs, but the diamonds split 4-1. When East wins the ♦A he returns a spades which you must ruff, using your last trump. Now, whether you play the ♦K and ♦J singly, or play the ♦J under the ♦K and ruff a diamond, you will have no more entries to your hand to run the rest of the diamonds. Your Aces are gone and so are your trump.

The first part of the plan was correct. You must use the ♥K to eliminate your spade loser. But you can only afford to pull 2 rounds of trump. You end in dummy and play

the ♦Q. East wins and sends back a spade which you ruff with your 3rd club. Now you go to dummy's ♦J and return to your hand with a club, pulling the opponent's last trump at the same time, where you can enjoy the rest of the diamonds.

Might East ruff the second diamond? Possibly, but not if diamonds had split normally, 3-2; or East, the hand with the singleton diamond, started with only 2 clubs.

This is the entire deal:

11			
N North			
W West	109	1♦	
♦KQ82	Pass	1♥	Pass
76	3♣		
♦9862	Pass	4♦	Pass
♣985	6♣		
	Pass	Pass	Pass
E East	7643		
♦A	Q10842		
♣76			
S South	A5		
♦A			
♦K107543			
♣AK103			
6♦ South			
0	0	0	0

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

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