

♠♥♦♣ PROMOTING A TRUMP ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer with this hand:

S	South
♠ J106	
♥ KQ	
♦ A1096	
♣ AJ103	

You are non vulnerable, but your opponents are. You have 15 HCP in this 4-4-3-2 balanced hand. You open 1NT.

West passes and your partner responds 2♦, a transfer to Hearts. East makes an overcall of 2♠ and it's back to you. Your agreement with you partner is that a failure to accept the transfer after an overcall, indicates a minimum hand with only 2 Hearts. This is an 'informative' pass. It doesn't end the bidding, but inparts information to partner so he can make an intelligent bid.

West again passes and North doubles. This is not a penalty double. It is more like a "balance of power" double. It says "I don't have 10 points. If I did, I would drive to game. I have about 7-9 points and we have at least 23 points and as many as 26 points. We either belong in a part score contract or should double the opponents."

The bid comes back to you. Would you pass, bid 3♥ or bid 3 of one of your minors? I think the vulnerability should determine your decision. If you can set the contract by 1 trick, you score +200. This is more than any part score you can make. You pass and play in 2♠ doubled by East, hoping for at least a 1 trick set.

Here is the bidding:

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	2♦!	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

You are on lead. What would you lead from this South hand?

W	West
♠	84
♥	864
♦	K854
♣	K865

S	South
♠	J106
♥	KQ
♦	A1096
♣	AJ103

You might as well lead partner's suit. You lead the ♥K and see the dummy in West. There isn't much in the way of points, but he does have the two minor suit King's sitting over your Aces, giving East 2 tricks in the minors. North plays the ♥9 to your first trick, signaling that he holds the ♥A, and your ♥K holds the trick. You plan to follow with the ♥Q, but first you must take your two minor suit Aces before the declarer discards any cards in those suits. On trick 4 you then lead the ♥Q and partner overtakes with the ♥A. He knows from your prior pass that you only have a doubleton.

Partner plays the ♥J for trick 5 and this holds. You have now taken 5 tricks and you need one more. What should partner now lead?

It's critical that he lead his last Heart. Yes, he knows that both declarer and dummy are out of Hearts, but he 'imagines' you holding a Spade that is higher than dummy's ♠8. If East trumps low from his hand, you will win with your ♠10. If he trumps high in his hand, your ♠J will be promoted as a winner. This play is called an 'uppercut'. If successful, it tends to give you a trump winner out of nothing.

This is the entire deal:

3 D	N North	W N E S
	♠ 73 ♥ AJ953 ♦ Q73 ♣ Q42	P 2♦ 2♣ P P X P P P
W West	E East	
♠ 84 ♥ 864 ♦ K854 ♣ K865	♠ AKQ952 ♥ 1072 ♦ J2 ♣ 97	
	S South	
	♠ J106 ♥ KQ ♦ A1096 ♣ AJ103	2♦ E NS: 0 EW: 0

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

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