

♠♥♦♣ THE BIG DOUBLE ♠♥♦♣

You are all vulnerable. West deals and passes. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	82
♥	AK8
♦	AKQJ1075
♣	3

East opens 1♣ in 3rd seat and it's your bid. You have 17 HCP. But what points they are!

Your seven-card quality Diamond suit is easily worth another 3 points. Since you have a Diamond fit in your own hand, the singleton Club is also valuable. This hand is much too good for a simple overcall. You must double and bid Diamonds following whatever your partner responds. This is the Big Double – a hand too strong for an overcall.

West passes and your partner jumps to 2♥. This shows at least 4 Hearts and 9-11 points. If she had less, she would have only responded 1♥. Now you rebid 3♦. The fact that your bid changed suit tells partner that you have 18+ points and a good Diamond suit. This is a forcing rebid. You have a minimum of 27 working points between you.

Your partner now rebids 3♠. She is trying to take you to 3NT by showing you stoppers in both Hearts and Spades. Notrump is too dangerous considering you Club singleton. If your partner also had Club stoppers, she would have bid 3NT.

However, you could have 3 quick losers in the black suits, so 5♦ is equally dangerous. Your easiest game is going to be in Hearts. You could have only a 4-3 fit. But you have the top two Heart honors. Your final bid should be 4♥.

Take over for your partner and try to take 10 tricks. East lead the ♣A.

S	South
♠	82
♥	AK8
♦	AKQJ1075
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Lead: ♣A

N	North
♠	KQ74
♥	Q9532
♦	8
♣	Q87

The lead of an Ace asks for attitude. You play the ♣3 and West follows with the ♣4. This denies the ♣Q. East knows that you hold the ♣Q in the North hand and the play of the ♣K on the second trick could cost the Defenders a trick. Therefore, East switches to the ♠3, the dummy's weakest suit.

West wins the ♠A and returns a Spade, having nothing better to lead. You win the ♠Q, draw trump in 3 rounds and claim 1 overtrick.

If 3NT was played from the South position, West would have led a Club and they would take the first 6 tricks. If 3NT is played by North, her ♣Q would serve as a stopper if East played the ♣A and ♣K. However, if he switched to the Spade after getting a discouraging signal to his initial lead, West would win his ♠A, as above, and then lead the Club through North's ♣Q.

5♦ does make, but for only 11 tricks for +600. Taking 11 tricks in 4♥ Hearts (+650) is only a 2 Imp difference, but in matchpoint scoring, it could mean the difference between sharing a top and just getting an average board.

This is the entire deal:

D	N North	W N E S
	♠ KQ74 ♥ Q9532 ♦ 8 ♣ Q87	P P 1♣ X P 2♥ P 3♦ P 3♠ P 4♥ P P P
W West		E East
♠ A96 ♥ J107 ♦ 6432 ♣ 964		♠ J1053 ♥ 64 ♦ 9 ♣ AKJ1052
	S South	
	♠ 82 ♥ AK8 ♦ AKQJ1075 ♣ 3	4♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2bm2hruh>, 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.