

♠♥♦♣ THINKING ABOUT ENTRIES ♠♥♦♣

North is the dealer. It is two passes to you:

S	South
♠	43
♥	AKQJ106
♦	A5
♣	972

You have a fine quality 6-card heart suit. Your 14 HCP is really more like 17 points. You open 1♥ and West doubles. Partner responds 1♠ and when the bidding returns, you jump to 3♥. This shows 16-18 points and a self-sufficient heart suit. This is a suit that can serve as trump with as few as 1 heart in partner's hand. He raises to 4♥.

West leads the ♦ K. What is your plan?

N	North
♠	KQ852
♥	84
♦	943
♣	A64

West leads ♦ K

S	South
♠	43
♥	AKQJ106
♦	A5
♣	972

You have 6 heart tricks and two outside aces. You need two tricks from the spades. That is going to depend on the position of the ♠A. If it is in West (a good bet since he doubled your opening bid), you will need to lead up to the ♠KQ. That involves getting

back to your hand twice. If you first pull trump and West holds up his ♠A until the second lead, you will be locked in the dummy. You were lucky West didn't lead the ♣K because you need the ♣A to access the good spade later. But the ♦K knocks out your one hand entry in diamonds. What is the solution?

The solution is to win the ♦A and pull one round of trump. Lead up to the spade and win the ♠Q. Now lead a trump back to your hand and lead another spade. West will rise with his ♠A and will allow you back in the lead, either with a 3rd diamond or a spade. Whichever he leads, you will ruff and pull the remaining trump. Then you can access the ♣A and discard a losing club on the good ♠K.

This is the full deal:

D	N North	♠ KQ852	W	N	E	S
		♥ 84	X	1♠	P	1♥
W West	S South	♦ 943	P	4♥	P	P
		♣ A64	P			
E East	W West	♠ AJ97	E East			
		♥ 3	♠ 106			
S South	E East	♦ KQ106	♥ 9752			
		♣ QJ53	♦ J872			
		♠ 43	♣ K108			
		♥ AKQJ106				
		♦ A5				
		♣ 972				
		4♥ S		NS: 0 EW: 0		

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y5k5zxjl>, Or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.