

♠♥♦♣ WHO HAS THE QUEEN? ♠♥♦♣

You are the dealer in the South:

S	South
♠	AQJ743
♥	76
♦	A109
♣	Q6

You open 1♠ and partner responds 2NT. This is the Jacoby 2NT convention that promises 4 or more spades and a good 12 or more points. It is game forcing in spades and you now get to express your feeling about slam. You have a minimum 7 loser hand and you show this by rebidding 4♠. Your partner passes, and West leads the ♠2.

N	North
♠	K98652
♥	AQ
♦	KJ3
♣	84

West leads ♠2

S	South
♠	AQJ743
♥	76
♦	A109
♣	Q6

This is how the hand was played at the table. East won the initial lead with the ♣A and returned a low club to West's ♣K. West then shifted to the ♥2. Declarer inserted the ♥Q, which was won by East's ♥K. East returned a low heart to North's ♥A. Now South had to find the ♦Q.

The declarer pulled the one outstanding trump which came from West's hand. He counted the hand and used bidding logic. Each of West's leads were the 2's of their suits. If they were truly system leads, fourth best, that meant West

started with 1 spade, 4 hearts, 4 clubs and thus, 4 diamonds. That also meant the East held 3 diamonds. Since there were more spaces in West's diamonds to contain the ♦Q, he played West for the missing honor and finessed North's ♦J. East, came up with the ♦Q, winning the 4th trick and setting the contract.

Finding the ♦Q in West was slightly more probable using bidding logic. However, there is a play that he missed that would have guaranteed him finding the ♦Q. When West wins the K and leads the heart, South goes up with the ♥A, not the ♥Q. He then pulls the one outstanding trump and leads the ♥Q. Whomever wins this trick must either lead a diamond, giving declarer a free finesse; or lead another suit, giving him a rough and discard. This is the classic end play. It is recognized because there were plenty of trump; there was a suit that declarer didn't want to guess at; and there were two other suits that could be eliminated along with a convenient exit card, the ♥Q.

Look at the entire deal:

	N North ♠ K98652 ♥ AQ ♦ KJ3 ♣ 84	W N E S P 2NT P 1♠ P P P 4♣
	W West ♠ 10 ♥ J982 ♦ 8542 ♣ K1052	E East ♠ ♥ K10543 ♦ Q76 ♣ AJ973
	S South ♠ AQJ743 ♥ 76 ♦ A109 ♣ Q6	4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/unnoc68> , 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.