

**BOTH VULNERABLE
EAST DEALS**

♠ A 9 4 3
♥ A Q 6
♦ 8 5 4
♣ K J 2



♠ Q J 10 7 2
♥ 10 5 4
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	3NT (a)	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Game forcing spade raise with four trump

LEAD: ♣ 10

Since there's no chance West is underleading the ace of clubs, I put in the jack losing to East's queen. East returns the two of diamonds and I win the ace, West playing the three.

My queen of spades loses to the king and the six of diamonds comes back. I win the king and West follows with the seven.

I draw trump with the ace and now have a choice of plays. I can insure the contract by ruffing dummy's little club, and playing the queen of diamonds. If the jack drops, I will pitch a heart on the ten of diamonds and take the heart finesse.

If the jack of diamonds does not drop I will ruff a diamond and lead the king of clubs. East will cover and I will pitch a heart leaving East on an endplay. This play guarantees the con-

tract but I'm going to do something else which I think increases my chance for an overtrick.

I expect the heart finesse to be onside because East has shown the spade king and the AQ of clubs. With the heart king, he would have opened the bidding.

Therefore, I can afford to take a diamond finesse expecting that if it loses, I will still make via the heart finesse.

Why not play the queen of diamonds which is the percentage play?

The reason I'm finessing is that East returned the two of diamonds. Most defenders play that the lead of a small card implies some strength and welcomes partner to continue the suit.

If East started with 962 of diamonds he could not afford the two because it might cause West to continue diamonds from Qxxx.

Defenders can not afford to send misleading messages to each other. Once in a while, declarer can take advantage, but that's the price of good defense. Win some, lose some, but come out ahead.

Also, if West had J73, he might (not a strong consideration), have encouraged. The diamond finesse works and as expected the heart finesse works, too. Plus 650.

COMPLETE HAND

<p>♠ A 9 4 3 ♥ A Q 6 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ K J 2</p>		<p>♠ K 6 ♥ J 8 2 ♦ J 9 6 2 ♣ A Q 5 4</p>						
<p>♠ 8 5 ♥ K 9 7 3 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 10 9 8 7 6</p>	<table border="1" style="border: none; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td></td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N		E	W	S		<p>♠ Q J 10 7 2 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ A K Q 10 ♣ 3</p>
N		E						
W	S							

East *South*
 Pass 1♣
 Pass 4♣
 Pass

with four trump

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FURTHER ANALYSIS

I've repeated this theme before, but it's worth the emphasis. Defenders have to exchange information in order to be effective. If they don't, their defensive efforts will be more guesswork than informed decision making and the results will be ludicrous.

In the above hand, East led a low diamond. It is fairly standard that if a defender leads a low card he is expressing some interest in the suit.

This was the actual suit.

	8 5 4		J 9 6 2
7 3			
	A K Q 10		

East led the two and declarer eventually guessed to finesse the ten. This time the defense looked bad. But what if the suit had been like this?

	8 5 4		
Q 9 3		?	
	?		

Say East leads the two and declarer wins the ace. When West gets in, should he return the suit.

If East has 762, West better not continue. But if East has J62 or K62, etc., it may be crucial for West to do so.

The point of this once again, is that defenders must use signals even at the cost of helping declarer on occasion. The long run benefits to the defenders make these signals necessary.

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