

Chalk Talk



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Dlr: East ♠ A
 Vul: None ♥ Q 9 6 5 3 2
 ♦ A J 7
 ♣ A Q 8

♠ J 10 9 ♠ K Q 8 7 6 4
 ♥ 4 ♥ 8
 ♦ 10 8 6 3 2 ♦ Q 9 5
 ♣ 10 9 4 3 ♣ K J 2

 ♠ 5 3 2
 ♥ A K J 10 7
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	All Pass	

West leads the ♠ J.

Bidding commentary: There are many ways to bid the North hand, but it's not unreasonable to leap to slam facing a two-level overcall. Most two-level overcalls show opening bid values; this is about as light as they come — just North's luck.

Play commentary: South adds his 11 high-card points to dummy's 17 HCP, a good habit to form, and comes up with 28, meaning East-West have 12 HCP. Normally, an opening bidder will have 12, but given the opening lead, East figures to have only 11. In other words, East has the ♣K and the ♦Q. Finesses in those suits are doomed. South must think of something else.

Further play commentary: Using the bidding as a guide, South crosses to his hand twice in hearts to ruff spades, stripping that suit. He plays the ♦KA, and continues with the ♦J, disdaining a finesse that cannot work. When East produces the

expected ♦Q, South discards a club. East has the lead and is not a happy camper. A club return is sure death as it goes smack into the A-Q. A spade return, a ruff and a sluff, is no good either. Assuming a spade return, South discards a second club and ruffs in dummy. South remains with one club and dummy has the ace — 6 ♥ bid and made.

Add your HCP to dummy's HCP to determine how many points HCP the opponents have. If there has been bidding, perhaps you can work out how many HCP either defender has. Assume an opening bidder has 12 HCP although 11 is a possibility, particularly if opener has a six-card suit, two five-card suits or has opened in third seat. Don't take finesses that can't possibly work!

Dlr: North ♠ A K Q
 Vul: E-W ♥ 9
 ♦ K Q 10 9 8
 ♣ A K 4 2

♠ — ♠ J 8 2
 ♥ A 7 6 5 4 ♥ K 8 3 2
 ♦ 5 4 3 ♦ J 6 2
 ♣ 10 9 8 6 5 ♣ Q J 7

 ♠ 10 9 7 6 5 4 3
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ 3

North	South
1 ♦	1 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♠
4NT	5 ♦ ⁽¹⁾
6 ♠	

(1) Simple Blackwood response showing one ace. If you play Keycard Blackwood, the responses may differ.

West leads the ♥ A.

Lead commentary: The lead of an ace at the five or six level does not guarantee the king. One frequently wants to lead an unsupported ace at these rarified levels. The king is normally led from the A-K-(x) at the five or six level.

Bidding commentary: North's jump shift is a game force and 4NT is Blackwood.

Defensive commentary: There is some confusion as to how to signal when partner leads an ace and a singleton in that suit pops up in dummy. Some play suit preference. When the possibility of a trump promotion exists, as the case here, an encouraging card should be interpreted as a request to continue the suit. If East plays the ♥8 (standard signals) asking for a heart continuation, a second heart play from West defeats the contract. After dummy ruffs, East's J-8-2 of trumps morphs into the setting trick. As an aside, the Blackwood response has marked South with the ♦A, so a diamond shift from West can hardly be right.