

♠ AKJ8
 ♥ KQ8
 ♦ 2
 ♣ AKQJ8

0983

ANALYSIS

e heart distribution, my play
 KQ doubleton or a singleton
 more trick by switching to his

Hand 50

**NORTH/SOUTH VULNERABLE
 EAST DEALS**

I cash the trick
 three-three...
 and lead a heart
 West has no...
 trick; but the...

South
 ♠ A Q
 ♥ Q J 6 4 2
 ♦ 9 6 2
 ♣ J 9 4

East opens **TWO SPADES**, weak, which I **PASS**. I'm not close to having a bid but I won't mind if Alex can bid something. West raises to **THREE SPADES** which Alex **DOUBLES**.

Under the circumstances I have a good hand. It would be even better if my spade strength were in the minor suits, but my heart holding is superb. I bid **FOUR HEARTS** and I expect it to be cold or, at worst, down one. The only reason for concern is that Alex may have made an aggressive bid. The opponents have threatened to steal the pot and it's imperative for the person in Alex's seat to get into the auction. Often the only way in is to make a light double based on shape and a prayer.

**NORTH/SOUTH VULNERABLE
EAST DEALS**

♠ 4 2
♥ A 8 7 5
♦ A K 7 3
♣ A 6 3



♠ A Q
♥ Q J 6 4 2
♦ 9 6 2
♣ J 9 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		2♠	Pass
3♠	Double	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

LEAD: ♠ J

Alex has a good hand but four hearts is not cold.

I win the opening lead with the queen and lead the queen of hearts. West covers so I win and draw a second round. West started with the K109 so I have a trump loser.

It occurs to me that the AQ of spades are not doing me that much good. If they were instead the heart ten and the queen jack of diamonds, four hearts would now be cold.

I am faced with four possible losers. If diamonds divide three-three, I can pitch a club. I can add a little bit to this chance by trying for a partial elimination.

I cash the spade ace and the diamond ace. East drops the ten on this. Now, instead of playing king and another diamond,

5
7 3

4 2

<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♣	Pass
Pass	4♥
Pass	

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 laying king and another diamond,

I lead the three. If diamonds are three-three, I've lost nothing, but if East has Q10, QJ, or J10, he may be endplayed.

When I lead the three of diamonds, East takes the queen and leads the two of clubs. My nine forces West's queen so I am now cold, regardless of who has the king of clubs.

I cash the king of diamonds, succeeding whenever they are three-three. When East discards a spade, I ruff the last diamond and lead a heart to West.

West has no successful option. The defense gets their club trick, but that's it.

COMPLETE HAND

♠ 4 2		♠ K 9 8 7 6 3									
♥ A 8 7 5		♥ 3									
♦ A K 7 3		♦ Q 10									
♣ A 6 3		♣ K 10 7 2									
♠ J 10 5											
♥ K 10 9											
♦ J 8 5 4											
♣ Q 8 5											
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W		E									
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FURTHER ANALYSIS

Alex had full values for his double. As I noted during the auction, this is one of the sequences where it is necessary to be extremely aggressive.
 When the auction starts with 2♥, Pass, 3♥? or 2♣, Pass, 3♣? the fourth player should act almost as if he is balancing as opposed to bidding directly.