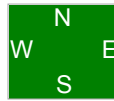


Use the Clues

by [Rich Waugh](#)

Partner opens 1♦, Right-hand opponent makes a weak jump overcall of 2♥.

Board 17
North Deals
None Vul



♠ K J 10 7 3
♥ 10
♦ 10 4
♣ K J 9 8 3

As South, what's your call?

Let's say you bid 2♠. The auction proceeds:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	All pass	

West leads the ♥2 and the dummy hits the table. This is what you see:

♠ A Q 4 2
♥ 8 7
♦ K J 8 6
♣ Q 10 4



♠ K J 10 7 3
♥ 10
♦ 10 4
♣ K J 9 8 3

How should you plan the play?

To answer that question, let's try to do a little card reading...

Questions to Ask Yourself

Who has the ♥A?

East has the ♥A. West would not underlead it.

[You play the ♥7 from dummy and East plays ♥A.]

How many hearts does East have?

West's lead of the ♥2 shows he has three or four hearts, leaving East with at least six (as his bid suggested).

Use the Clues

by [Rich Waugh](#)

What heart honors does East have?

West would not lead low from the ♥KQ or from the ♥QJ. He is leading from the ♥K, ♥Q, ♥J, ♥KJ, or no heart honors at all. This means East has the ♥AQJ, ♥AKJ, ♥AKQ, ♥AQ, or ♥AKQJ.

Where is the ♥Q?

East has the ♥Q. East's play of the ♥A implies West has the ♥K (East should play the ♥K from ♥AK). West would have led the ♥K from the ♥KQ, which means the ♥Q is with East.

Who has the ♣A?

West has the ♣A. East would overcall 1♥ (not a *weak* 2♥) if he held six good hearts and an outside ace.

Who has the ♦A?

West has the ♦A. Same reasoning as above.

How should you play the contract?

Draw trumps as soon as possible and play West for the ♦A. Lead a diamond to the ♦K, not the ♦J.

The entire deal:

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