

# Play With All 52 Cards

By Chip Martel

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'You played that hand as if you could see through the backs of their cards' is one of the nicest compliments a bridge player can get. Accurate reconstruction of the unseen hands is an essential skill for a successful card player.

A good player considers all 52 cards, not just his own and the dummy's.

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

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

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

West led the jack of diamonds against South's four hearts and declarer cleverly played dummy's queen! After winning East's king with the ace (East could hardly know to duck), declarer led a spade at trick two. West flew in with the ace, planning to take a trick in each suit.

While a singleton spade and doubleton diamond is consistent with South's bidding and play, it leaves East with Q-J-x-x in spades to go with his king of diamonds. He would surely not have passed over the one diamond opening with this hand, so declarer must have at least two spades. And if that is the case, ducking the spade at trick two is clearly correct.

As a defender, drawing inferences from your partner's bidding and play has an added benefit. While declarer may make bids or plays that are surprising, hopefully you know what to expect from your partner.

This type of reasoning will often turn an apparent guess into a sure thing.