

Abstention

West leads the ♠10. What is your plan to make your partner happy after he produces such a favorable dummy?

Solution:

The idea is to avoid taking the spade finesse if possible. The way to avoid it is to endplay West.

After winning the first trick with the ♠A, you cross to dummy with the ♥9 and ruff the ♦5 high. Next you cash the ♠K and ruff the ♣4, eliminating that suit. Then you ruff dummy's ♦7 high. This allows you to return to dummy by leading the six of trumps to dummy's eight. Now comes the key play: you lead the ♦K and discard the ♠5 from hand.

After West wins this trick with the ♦A, he has no good return. A spade exit will run into your ace-queen while a fourth round of diamonds will allow you to ruff in the dummy and discard the ♠Q. Either way, you make twelve tricks.

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 7 3 2
♥ 9 8 7 5 4
♦ K 7 5
♣ 7 2

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



♠ J 9 8 4
♥ 3
♦ Q 9 2
♣ Q J 8 6 3

♠ A Q 5
♥ A K Q J 10 6 2
♦ —
♣ A K 4

West	North	East	South
3 ♦	Pass ¹	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	4 ♥ ²	Pass	3 ♥
All pass			

1. Promised at least a king (you would double with less).
2. Four diamonds would have been a general slam try.

6 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ 10