

S	W	N	E
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ AJ98
♥ K53
♦ 52
♣ Q876

K♦

CONTRACT
3NT by South

♠ Q102
♥ A862
♦ A84
♣ AK9

PROBLEM

West leads the ♠K. What is the danger to your contract, and how do you avoid it?

SOLUTION

You have 7 tricks, maybe 8 if the clubs break 3-3. The missing tricks will come from spades. The risk is that the defence regains the lead with the ♠K and cashes 4 diamond tricks.

Do not play the ♦A on the first trick, but wait for the third round. Then take the spade finesse by playing the queen. You will only give up the lead if the king is with East, who has no diamond left to play. This technique is called the hold-up play.

♠ AJ98
♥ K53
♦ 52
♣ Q876

♠ 75
♥ J974
♦ KQJ106
♣ 54

CONTRACT
3NT by South

♠ K643
♥ Q10
♦ 973
♣ J1032

♠ Q102
♥ A862
♦ A84
♣ AK9