

Board 29
 South Deals
 Both Vul

Smith Echo -- Problem

♠ K 6 2
 ♥ A
 ♦ Q 9 6 5 4 2
 ♣ Q 4 2



♠ 10 8 4 3
 ♥ J 4 2
 ♦ J 7 3
 ♣ 8 6 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 7			

Join me as East for this deal from the NABC Senior Swiss Teams. Our defensive signals: upside-down attitude and count, reverse Smith echo, and give count on partner's lead. (These are all non-standard agreements.)

Standard count would be low from an odd number. Playing upside-down, we put the ♥ 4 (high) under dummy's ace.

Declarer calls for a small diamond from dummy. Plan the defense.

This is not a trick question -- we keep our mitts off that jack! Playing Smith echo, we show attitude toward partner's lead by our play in diamonds.

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Smith Echo -- Solution

<p>♠ A J 5 ♥ K 9 8 7 3 ♦ A 8 ♣ 10 9 5</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	<p>♠ K 6 2 ♥ A ♦ Q 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ Q 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 4 3 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ 8 6 3</p>
<p>♠ Q 9 7 ♥ Q 10 6 5 ♦ K 10 ♣ A K J 7</p>			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 NT	All pass	1 NT
<p>3 NT by South Lead: ♥ 7</p>			

There is one scenario where we can do the nasty to declarer - and this is it! Follow (smoothly) with the ♦ 3. This is an encouraging signal -- reverse Smith echo is compatible with upside-down attitude signals. Declarer fatally guesses to play the ♦ K, won by partner's ace. Partner duly leads another heart, ♠ 2, ♥ J, ♥ Q, leaving this heart situation:

♥ K 9 3		♥ 2
♥ 10 6		

Declarer cannot make the contract without another diamond trick. We get in with the ♦ J and push a heart through. We take three hearts, two diamonds and a spade: two down.

In all the years I have been playing Smith echo, this is one of the few times I have seen it applied successfully.