

North Deals
E-W Vul

Spade Partial -- Problem

♠ A 7 2
♥ J 8
♦ A Q 7 5 4
♣ Q 9 6



♠ J 9 8 6 3
♥ Q 10 9 7
♦ J
♣ A 7 3

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

1. Natural and strong.
2 ♠ by South
Lead: ♣ 4

Plan the play at matchpoint pairs.

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E-W Vul

Spade Partial -- Solution

♠ K Q 5	♠ A 7 2	♠ 10 4
♥ A K 2	♥ J 8	♥ 6 5 4 3
♦ K 9 6	♦ A Q 7 5 4	♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ K 10 4 2	♣ Q 9 6	♣ J 8 5
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ J 9 8 6 3	
	♥ Q 10 9 7	
	♦ J	
	♣ A 7 3	

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

1. Natural and strong.
2 ♠ by South
Lead: ♣ 4

West will have most of the outstanding points, surely including both high spades and the one high diamond.

We have an immediate choice in the club suit: play the queen or not. In the diagram, it's just possible that the ♣ K and ♣ J are switched. That's not the way to bet - call for the ♣ Q on the lead - it wins! Now what?

Call for a small spade from dummy, and when East plays low, insert the ♠ 8. This *intrafinesse* works - West wins with the king or queen. The ♣ King comes back - win with the ace. Now, the ♦ J, covered with the king. Win the ♦ A and cash the queen (pitching our last club). Now the ♥ J, going for our two heart tricks. West wins (ducking won't help), and makes us ruff a club.

Now we lead the ♠ J. If West covers, the ace drops East's ten. Otherwise, the ♠ J will win. Either way, we draw the last trump. With one trump left in hand, and a heart still on dummy, we knock out the remaining heart honor. Making four, losing one trump and two hearts.

At the table, I was not so bold. I played small on the opening club lead, and thus made only three. The *intrafinesse* still produced a tie for top.