

Dummy

♠KQ8

♥K7

♦J10964

♣K95

You

♠95

♥AQJ86543

♦

♣A87

After some enthusiastic bidding by both you and your partner, you find yourself in a very reasonable 6H contract. The opening lead is the A of diamonds. You trump the first diamond, draw two rounds of trump ending in your hand, and lead a spade. The Q of spades loses to the Ace and another diamond comes back. Plan the rest of the play.

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## The Answer

The basic approach is to run all of your hearts. The opponents must protect all 3 side suits, in order to prevent you from taking an extra trick in any of those suits. However, because each opponent can only guard one of the side suits, they will not be able to protect all 3 suits simultaneously.

Let me give you an example scenario. Ruff the diamond, play a club to the K, and ruff another diamond. Then run all your hearts. With one heart out, this is a possible ending:

	<u>Dummy</u>	
	♠K8	
	♥	
	♦J10	
	♣	
<u>LHO</u>		<u>RHO</u>
♠107		♠J2
♥		♥
♦K		♦
♣10		♣QJ
	<u>You</u>	
	♠9	
	♥3	
	♦	
	♣A8	

When you play the 3 of hearts, LHO can safely throw the 10 of clubs. Dummy throws a diamond. RHO must throw a spade, to protect clubs.

Now you play the A of clubs. LHO has an unsolvable problem. If he throws the K of diamonds, dummy's J of diamonds is good. And if he throws a spade, dummy's two spades are good. In either case, you take the last two tricks.

This is known as a “double squeeze”, because you squeeze both opponents.

In general, if you only have to lose at most one more trick, it is good technique to run all of your winning tricks and force the opponents to discard. Often, even if it is possible for them to discard in a way that will let them take the last trick, they find it difficult to figure out how to discard, and you end up stealing the last trick with a low card.