

**Bridge Hand
By Marti Ronemus**

North



Q109

842

10862

J32

862

J965

Q743

94

K743

K1073

AKJ95

W N E S AJ5

 1D Dbl AQ

P 1H P 7C !! ---

AKQ108765

Bidding: We need so little from partner, and we know the cards we need to find are most likely in East. We couldn't be blamed for just going to 6C, but let's give ourselves a challenge.

Play: We need two finesses to make, but East is marked with the cards we need. The key to victory in this hand is correct handling of the Spades. Trick 1, West leads a small D. We ruff in our hand. We get to dummy with the C Jack and attack Spades, leading the S Q.

The key to this hand is unblocking our hand by playing the S Jack under the Q at at trick 3. If East covers, we can re-enter dummy with a Spade to finesse the Hearts. If East does not cover, we play another Spade. If he still doesn't cover, we'll now take our Heart finesse. But if he does cover...we re-enter dummy with a Spade and take the Heart finesse. As long as we unblock at Trick 2, we cannot lose.

KEY POINT: Unblocking requires us to look ahead at the various scenarios.

TAKE NOTE: We made slam with 23 HCP.

Ed Note: Less experienced players should try the hand, using a deck of cards so you see the whole picture.

QUIZ

Hands by Ron Klinger

Answers by Barbara



A. Partner opened 1D. You responded 1H and partner rebid 1S. What do you do next?

1.	2.	3.	4.
K82	A983	A7	Q7
Q982	KQ64	KJ8643	KJ84
764	7	76	Q752
K76	A743	432	843

B. Partner opened 1D. You responded 1H. Opener now rebid 2C. What will you now bid?

K7	86	AJ83	873	64
Q753	A932	KJ92	AQJ6	AK762
964	9762	AJ7	J8	QJ104
Q872	K73	52	K974	87

C. Partner opened 1H. You responded 1S. Opener now rebid 2D. Your turn.

KJ743	AQJ5	K875	J7432
742	K74	2	Q8
862	32	K843	K6
A3	J832	9853	8652

ANSWERS

Before we do the answers, consider this.

You have

A8765

32

K654

32

Partner opens 1H, you respond 1S and opener now bids 2C. You are responder with 6-9 points. This is a weak hand with 6-9 points. Usually with such hands, you may only bid once. BUT when opener offers you the responder a choice of 2 suits and you find yourself with only 6-9 points, you MUST choose one of opener's suits, not mention another one of your own (e.g. Diamonds). You now bid 2H. This is called Simple Preference. Simple means NOT a jump.

If you had held instead:

A8765

3

K654

432

Partner opens 1H on above hand, you respond 1S and opener now bids 2C. Now you can pass. You are choosing Clubs by saying Pass.

Now you have

AQ876

J76

KJ5

32

Partner opens 1H, you respond 1S and opener now bids 2C. You have 10-12 points. Your next bid is now 3H because if you bid just 2H, then opener will think you have just 6-9 points and are showing SIMPLE preference. So your bid is 3H which is called JUMP PREFERENCE.

Okay, now here are the answers.

A.

1. 1NT

2. 4S

3. 2H (This is one that everyone musses up. The rebid of your own suit at cheapest level in this scenario shows 6-9 points and a 6 card suit or an excellent 5 card suit.)

4. 2D

B.

1. Pass

2. 2D

3. 3NT

4. 3C

5. 3D

C.

1. You should not have bid 1S in the first place. 2H would have been the correct first bid.

2. 3H Jump Preference

3. Pass

4. 2H

THE MAGIC OF FOUR-CARD SUPPORT FOR PARTNER'S SUIT

For many years, the significance and the tremendous playing value of having 4 card support for partner's suit, particularly his major suit, has been unrecognized.

Experts have always been aware of the importance of this, but it was always "unwritten" until Marty Bergen and Larry Cohen popularized the "Law of Total Tricks" which was a big part of their system.

"Bergen raises" are a part of a modern bidding style, which now allows us to show immediately 4 card support for partner's major suit when we have 6-9 points.

It is a fact that putting two hands together with a nine-card fit will ultimately play better and take more tricks than the same hand with only an eight-card fit.

Check out the following very similar hands:

S Qxx	S xx
H AQJxx	H Kxx
D x	D Axxx
C Axxx	C Kxxx

You find yourself in the fine contract of 4 H . All would be well against friendly opponents, but the opponents decide to lead a trump as the opening lead.

You win the lead and must now create a void in the dummy in S 's so that you can trump a S from declarer's hand in the dummy.

As soon as you concede a S , the rotten opponents lead another H . You win it and concede yet another S . Back comes another H and now you are toast! You now lose 3 S and a C , down one, due to good defense.

Let's look at a contrasting hand:

S Qxx	S xx
H AQJxx	H Kxxx
D x	D Axx
C Axxx	C Kxxx

Now, no matter what happens and how good these defenders are, you can always trump a Spade in the dummy.

THE VALUE OF 4 CARD SUPPORT CAN NEVER BE OVERSTATED!

How to show 4 CARD SUPPORT with 6-9 points (including Distribution)

1H - 3C

or

1S - 3C

How to show 4 CARD SUPPORT with 10-12 points (including Distribution)

1H - 3D

or

1S - 3D

It must follow that you would no longer need bids such as 1S - 3S or 1H - 3H ...therefore in order to give these bids some useful meaning, they will now become pre-emptive and show 2-5 pts (incl. dist) and 4 card support. e.g. S x H Qxxx D xxxxx C xxx If partner opens 1H , bid 3H with this hand.

Try it, you'll like it. These are called BERGEN RAISES after Marty Bergen.