

HANDLING ACE-KING-QUEEN-FIFTH OPPOSITE JACK-TEN-FOURTH

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Here is a play problem that revolves around managing the suit combination in the title.

NORTH
 ♠ A 10 9 8
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10 8 5 4
 ♣ A K Q 8 7

SOUTH
 ♠ 7 5 4 3
 ♥ Q 9 7
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ J 10 4 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1 ♥	Double	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Spade king, eight, deuce, three.

Spade queen, *ace*, six, four.

How do you guarantee nine tricks?

If you start by running clubs, West (who holds the missing trump and the ace of diamonds) can discard throughout and will soon gain the lead to play a third round of trumps, leaving you a trick short.

If you play club jack, heart ruff, club ten, heart ruff, West can (if necessary) ruff the fourth round of clubs and play hearts.

The correct approach is a club to the jack, a heart ruff, two top clubs from

dummy, and a club to the ten in the closed hand. If West were to ruff any of those tricks, you will take four clubs, the spade ace, and four ruffs. In hand with the ten of clubs, you ruff a heart and continue with dummy's last club, leaving the defense helpless.

NORTH
 ♠ A 10 9 8
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10 8 5 4
 ♣ A K Q 8 7

WEST
 ♠ K Q J
 ♥ A 10 8 5 4 2
 ♦ A J
 ♣ 9 2

EAST
 ♠ 6 2
 ♥ K J 6 3
 ♦ Q 9 7 3 2
 ♣ 6 5

SOUTH
 ♠ 7 5 4 3
 ♥ Q 9 7
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ J 10 4 3