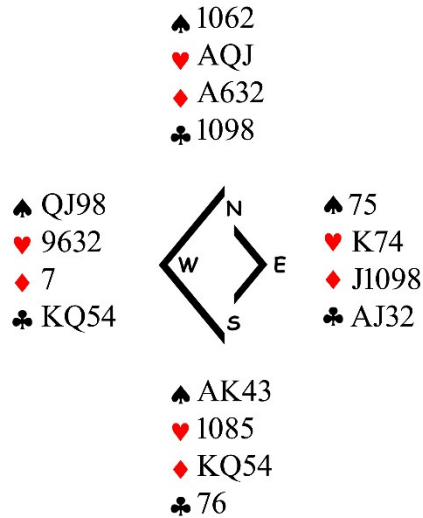


# 298. Showing Stoppers with Inverted Minors IV

No Column published the week of July 27, 2016

Published on page 2 of the Trail Times, Wednesday Aug 3, 2016



W	N	E	S
P	P	P	1 ♦
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	2NT	P	3 ♦
All Pass			

--East West Vulnerable--

## The bidding:

South opens One Diamond, and North skips the suits in which he does not have four-cards to bid Two Diamonds. This shows four or more Diamonds and 10 or more points and South must alert the bid. They have also agreed a priori to play inverted minors. South then bids Two Spades which denies a Heart stopper. If he had a Heart stopper but not a Spade stopper, he would have bid Two Hearts. If he had both Majors stopped, he would have bid Two No Trump.

North bids Two No Trump promising a stopper in any skipped suit. North has a Heart stopper, in a suit partner skipped. South bids Three Diamonds because he

does not have a Club stopper, showing a hand that does not accept an invitation. If he had 14 points, he would bid Three Spades, skipping unstopped suits as before.

North has nothing more than an invitational hand and passes Three Diamonds.

**Opening Lead:**

West does not lead a Club because North could have a Club stopper with a bare invitational hand. He leads the Spade Queen, top of a broken sequence.

**The Play:**

Declarer wins the Spade Ace and exits a Club. East wins the Jack and plays his last Spade. Declarer wins the King and cashes the Diamond Ace and King. When he sees the news of a bad trump split, he stops drawing trump and exits a Club. West wins the Club and cashes two Spades. Declarer ruffs the second one in dummy, and East over-ruffs losing a natural trump trick. Declarer takes the Heart finesse which loses to the King. Once he gets the lead back by ruffing a Club, he will draw the last trump.

**Result:**

Declarer will lose one Spade, one Heart, one Diamond and two Clubs for down 1 for -50.