

# 327. Raising With Three

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♠ 85		
♥ AQ4		
♦ QJ74		
♣ K842		
♠ 97643		♠ A102
♥ 863		♥ 1097
♦ A62		♦ K983
♣ Q7		♣ 1096
	♠ KQJ	
	♥ KJ52	
	♦ 105	
	♣ AJ53	

N	E	S	W
1♦	P	1♥	P
2♥	P	3NT	All Pass

--None Vulnerable--

## The bidding:

North, with 12 HCP's and no wasted points, opens One Diamond. When the minors are equal length of four or more, One Diamond is opened. South replies One Heart and North typically needs four Heart to raise. In a previous column, we saw a three-card raise when opener had five Clubs, four Diamonds and a singleton. Here is another example. Both are rebid problems.

If North rebids 1NT over One Heart, the likely Spade lead will go through partner's Spade stopper. It is after all, North's shortest suit. Therefore, he raises Hearts and since South has enough for game, he bids 3NT and if North has four

Hearts, he corrects to Four Hearts. This is an example of right-siding the contract. As it turns out South has good Spades and the location of the lead does not matter.

**Opening Lead:** West leads the Spade 4. He leads fourth best and not top of nothing because he does not want partner to switch to another suit if Spades is not his suit.

**The Play:**

East wins the Spade Ace and exits the Spade Ten. Declarer wins and crosses to the Heart Ace and plays a small Diamond to his Ten because he does not want East to win his Diamond stopper when he has a Spade left. West ducks twice so East can win his Diamond King and play his last Spade while West still has the Diamond Ace.

Declarer wins the Spade and cashes his Hearts. He cannot play Diamonds and he cannot take the Club finesse into the danger hand. West is the danger hand because he has Spades ready to be cashed. Declarer refuses the Club finesse and cashes the top two Clubs to see the Queen fall. If declarer had taken the Club finesse, West would have won with the doubleton Queen.

**The Result:**

Declarer wins two Spades, four Hearts, one Diamond and four Clubs for +460, losing just a Spade and a Diamond.