

23. Super-acceptance Finds a Bust Hand

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	♠ AJ		
	♥ Q432		
	♦ QJ109		
	♣ AQJ		
♠ 10432		♠ KQ97	
♥ A5		♥ KJ	
♦ AK764		♦ 853	
♣ 104		♣ K765	
	♠ 865		
	♥ 109876		
	♦ 2		
	♣ 9832		
W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♦
P	3♥	All Pass	

--North-South Vulnerable--

Superacceptance:

In the previous column, the 1 NT opener accepted partner's major suit transfer by bidding one level higher than is normally required. The opener's hand contained 17 points, a doubleton (not a four-triple-three hand) and four-card support.

North may not want to super-accept a transfer to hearts, if he knew his partner had nothing. However, it may still make, and in fact, it may prevent the opponents from finding their own contract. The times when super-acceptance works outweigh the few times when partner has nothing, the contract fails and the opponents cannot get more in their own suit.

The Bidding:

North, with a balanced hand and 17 points, opens 1 NT. South knows that 1 NT opposite his hand will never make, but a contract of two hearts may make. South bids two diamonds as a transfer to hearts and North super-accepts. South passes. Does South wish he were in two hearts?

No, because West would have doubled two hearts instead of letting the auction pass out. This double shows four spades, and if East bids three clubs, West can correct to three diamonds. As it turns out, East would have bid two spades.

Two spade contract by East:

East loses a spade, a diamond and a club. He wins two spades and two ruffs, two hearts, three diamonds and one club for ten tricks.

Result: Two spades plus two for +170.

Three heart contract by North:

First Case:

Opening lead: King of Spades

North wins the ace and draws trump. North will lose a spade, two hearts, one diamond and one club for a total of five tricks.

Result: Three hearts down one for -100

Second Case:

Opening lead: Eight of diamonds

This is a less likely lead but could give declarer more problems. West wins the king (note, if West wins the ace, he is denying the king because a defender always wins the trick in third or fourth seat as cheaply as possible), and switches to the ten of clubs.

North takes his ace and plays trump. West wins the ace of trump, and plays his second club. East wins the king and gives West a ruff of a club with the five of hearts. North loses a spade, two hearts, a diamond, a club and a club ruff.

Result: Three hearts down two for -200.

Third Case:

Opening lead: Eight of diamonds

As in the second case, West wins the king of diamonds and switches to the ten of clubs. What if North ducks the club? He wins the club continuation and draws trump. East cannot get in to give his partner a club ruff. North loses a spade, two hearts, a diamond and a club.

Result: Three hearts down one for -100.

Note: -100, the likely result, is a better result than letting opponents find a spade contract and get +170 or +420.