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DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - December 2014 - original - [Here](#)
 Our thanks to MrBridge
 By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ AQ65 ♥ 85 ♦ 754 ♣ A875	
WEST ♠ 72 ♥ A1097 ♦ Q1082 ♣ J93	Deal 3	EAST ♠ K4 ♥ 643 ♦ KJ6 ♣ Q10642
	SOUTH ♠ J10983 ♥ KQJ2 ♦ A93 ♣ K	

You are declarer in 4♣ and West leads the ♦2. How do you plan the play?

The game is an excellent one, but if your finesse scanner comes out early, you are going to be in trouble. You are in danger of losing one spade, one heart and two diamonds if the trump finesse fails but, of course, you shouldn't take it.

Win the diamond lead and cash the king of clubs. Now play a trump to the ace and play the ace of clubs, discarding a diamond from hand. Now you continue to draw trumps, but the difference is that the opposition can cash only one diamond trick.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 10865 ♥ Q109 ♦ KQ107 ♣ 64	
WEST ♠ A74 ♥ 763 ♦ 82 ♣ Q10832	Deal 4	EAST ♠ K32 ♥ KJ42 ♦ 54 ♣ J975
	SOUTH ♠ QJ9 ♥ A85 ♦ AJ963 ♣ AK	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♣3. How do you plan the play?

With eight tricks on top, it might seem as though you can set up a spade trick for the ninth. But can you really? By the time the spade has been established, the defenders will be cashing their three club winners, so you have to look somewhere else for that elusive trick. Hearts is the suit you must play on, but you have to do so in the best manner. If you play low from hand, you have to guess whether to play the queen or the ten from dummy.

A much better way is to use a diamond entry in dummy to lead the queen from the table. If East covers, you just knock out the jack while, if he plays low and it loses to West, you take another finesse later by leading the ten from dummy, making as long as East has at least one heart honour.