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Let  $G$  be a graph. A subgraph  $H$  of  $G$  is called an *even square hamiltonian cycle* (ESHC) if it contains a hamiltonian cycle  $C = v_0v_1 \dots v_{n-1}v_0$  of  $G$  and chord  $v_iv_{i+3}$  for each  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ . Clearly, if  $G$  has an ESHC then  $G$  contains all possible 2-factors with even components. We prove that there is a positive integer  $N$  such that, for a graph  $G$  of order  $n$ , if  $n$  is even and minimum degree  $\delta(G) \geq \frac{1}{2}(n + 614)$  then  $G$  contains an ESHC. The condition that  $n$  is even is necessary. (Received January 25, 2009)