

DEFENSE 2

When there is a short side suit in dummy and declarer draws all of the dummy's trumps, the inference is that declarer doesn't have any losers to ruff in that suit. Translation: It is safe to discard that suit.

When declarer ignores a strong suit in dummy lacking one honor – such as KQJ10 (x) or AQJ10 (x), - assume declarer has the honor: If he doesn't, why isn't he setting up that suit?

When dummy hits the table, add declarer's likely point count to dummy's known point count. Now add that total to your point count and subtract from 40 to determine how many points partner has. It works!

The best time to lead a short suit is with trump control. (Axx and Kxx) are great trump holdings to lead from shortness. However, if ruffing will cost you a trump trick, leads from shortness with trump holdings such as J10xx, QJ9x, or K10xx are counterproductive.

When signaling encouragement with equal spot cards, signal with the higher or highest equal. With A987, signal encouragement with the 9, denying the 10, if you play the 8, denies the 9.

Partner leads the A from AK. If you play the Q, you guarantee you can win the second trick. You have the J of the suit, or the Q's a singleton. You do not hi-low with Q doubleton.

	A94	DEALER – 1NT		
	64	2 HEARTS		
	AKQ64			
	Q86			
8753			J62	PASS
AKJ	PASS		983	PASS
873			95	
K73			A9542	
	KQ10			
	Q10752			
	J102	2 DIAMONDS (Transfer)		
	J10	3 NT		

Partner leads the 4 of clubs, dummy the 10, you win the K? what do you do at trick 2?

	K5	4 Spades		
	Q3			
	A72			
	AK9874			
1063			72	
KJ865			A974	Pass
K83	Pass		J1094	
102			QJ6	
	AQJ984			
	102	DEALER-2 Spades		
	Q65			
	53			

6 of hearts lead, you win the Ace. Now what? HINT: A common mistake is to win partner's opening lead and blindly return the same suit.

	973	3 Hearts		
	9753			
	AQ107			
	AJ			
KQJ8			A542	
2	Pass		A8	
865432			J	Pass
85			976432	
	106			
	KQJ1064			
	K9	DEALER – 1 Heart		
	KQ10	4 Hearts		

K of spades lead. Can you set this contract? Hint: You have the Ace of hearts (trump). East should be able to work out where the defensive tricks are coming from. West cannot.

	K105			
	J84	2 Spades		
	QJ1074			
	92			
96			72	3 Hearts
KQ1075			A962	
K9	2 Hearts		652	
A875			QJ63	
	AQJ843			
	3	DEALER 1 Spade		
	A83	4 Spades		
	K104			

K of hearts lead. Only 1 heart for the defense, where can you get your tricks? Think at Trick 1.