

“E is for ENTRIES”

Basic techniques include ducking, unblocking, and overtaking.

“Failure to plan, is planning to fail”. In the realm of card play, it is hard to find a more important topic than entries, ranging from simple to complex.

A3 2 Diamonds (transfer)
KQ982 3 NT
75
9764

J10752		K96	Pass
6543	Pass	A7	Pass
64	Pass	K1093	
QJ	Pass	10852	

Q84
J10 DEALER – 1 NT
AQJ82 2 Hearts
AK3 Pass

West leads the 5 of spades, dummy plays low, East wins the K and returns the 9. You play low, West follows with the 2, you win the Ace in dummy. Dummy's stripped of a crucial entry. Unless A of hearts is a singleton, a 1 round holdup by the defense prevents the hearts from coming home. An alternative plan is needed, which means you have to turn to diamonds. Take a diamond finesse at trick 3 and it wins, need to return to dummy to repeat the finesse. Lead the J of hearts, if West plays low, overtake, East should duck. You're in dummy for the last time. Repeat the diamond finesse, which wins. Cash the Ace of diamonds, concede a diamond to East to establish the 5th diamond. Win the spade return, and make your contract, 2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds, and 2 clubs.

YOU OVERTOOK THE HEART TO ESTABLISH A SECOND DUMMY ENTRY.

Note the importance of the second diamond finesse to secure an extra diamond trick and East was compelled to duck the Ace of hearts, lest you win 4 heart tricks.

OPENING HANDS??

You hold: 2 Passes to you-

Q98643

J1063

2

K5

I would open 2 spades. Partners' a passed hand. O would never dream of open 2 spades as dealer or in 2nd seat.

You hold: 2 Passes to you-

Q103

K74

QJ107

K74

I would open 1 diamond. When I do open light in 3rd seat, it's only when I can pass at my 2nd turn over whatever partner has responded. I know partner doesn't have an opening hand. If partner bids 1 heart or 1 spade or 1NT, I pass.

You hold: 2 Passes to you-

74

Q1062

QJ73

AJ6

I pass. I can't pass at my turn over whatever partner has responded. See the difference between this hand and the one above.

New suits by responder are forcing. Responder needs forcing bids, and new suits are Forcing for one round. Easy. Good rule. But there are exceptions.

Opener:

Responder:

1 Club

1 Spade

1 NT

2 Hearts

Responder's 2 hearts is nonforcing. It's not just non-forcing, it's drop-dead.

Opener's only options are to pass or take a preference to 2 spades. But it's a new suit by responder, it looks forcing. Why isn't it?

Because there's an alternative way to bid with a stronger hand with spades and hearts, new minor forcing (NMF).

If you hold: KQ874 AJ74 A7 62 You bid 2 diamonds (NMF)