

MORE TRICKS ARE DROPPED ON DEFENSE

Whoever said that defense was the hardest part of the game was right on. More tricks are dropped on defense than on bidding and play combines.

When defending a hand, you are dealing with a partner whose leads, signals, and discards you must trust 100%.

		Q1094	Redouble or 2NT		
		86	Pass		
		AK2			
		5432			
J5				63	Pass
A1092	Double			7543	Pass
QJ98	Pass			10754	
AQ10				J76	
		AK872			
		KQJ	DEALER 1 Spade		
		63	4 Spades		
		K98			

Q of diamonds lead, declarer wins, draws 2 rounds of spades, leads K of hearts, you win the Ace and return a diamond. Declarer wins, ruffs a diamond, cashes 2 hearts and leads a trump to dummy and leads a club. Your play???

		KJ43	3 Hearts		
		854	Pass		
		A74			
		K85			
7				962	Pass
AKJ1073				92	Pass
96	2 Hearts			108532	
J432	Pass			A106	
		AQ1085			
		Q6	DEALER – 1 Spade		
		KQJ	4 Spades		
		Q97			

West leads the AKJ of hearts, what do you discard on the 3rd heart? Play a low diamond. Don't even think of discarding the 10 of clubs. When you see a balanced dummy, let the hand come to you. Eventually, you'll score 2 clubs. Hang on to your clubs, they only asset you have.

		A72	1NT		
		J6	4 Hearts		
		Q875			
		J532			
QJ108				654	Pass
52	Pass			AQ3	Pass
J643	Pass			K109	
874	Pass			Q1096	
		K93			
		K109874	DEALER – 1 Heart		
		A2	3 Hearts		
		AK	Pass		

Q of spades led, win K, cash A of diamonds and a diamond hoping to set up the Q for a pitch. You win the K and exit a spade to the A. Declarer leads the J of hearts. You must win your Ace to protect your Q, there's no dummy re-entry, can't repeat the finesse.

		J983	2 Diamonds		
		Q74	3 Clubs		
		6543	3NT		
		Q10			
72				AKQ10	
1098	Pass			7652	Pass
A9872	Pass			Void	Pass
853	Pass			97642	Pass
		654			
		AKJ	DEALER – 2 Clubs		
		KQJ10	2 NT		
		AKJ	3 Diamonds		

West leads the 9 of diamonds, what do you discard? Declarer wins and leads another diamond, partner wins the Ace. What do you discard?

When making two discards in the same suit from length. The first is attitude, the second present count. (High from even, low from odd for present count)

The discard on an honor card indicates the top of a perfect sequence. It also tells partner it's not necessary to protect that suit if discarding becomes a problem.

Most discards come from long suits. If declarer knows your length from the bidding or because partner has shown out, that suit is safe to discard, declarer knows what you have.