

PLAY BETTER

7642 2 Hearts
Q97 4 Hearts
KQ105
87

J985
52 PASS
93 PASS
KQJ32

Q10 PASS
A63 PASS
863
A10956

AK3
KJ1084 DEALER – 1 Heart
AJ74 3 Diamonds (HSGT)
4 PASS

K of clubs led, second club led, how do you play the hand to make your contract?

8 PASS
Q853
KQ1083
AK8

A6 PASS
A764
976
QJ109

32PASS
KJ92
AJ42
653

KQJ109754
10
5 DEALER – 4 Spades
742

Q of clubs lead, you win the Ace. Your losers are one spade (fast), one heart (fast), one diamond (fast), and 1 club (slow) after winning the opening lead. One loser must be eliminated. Your sole option is to discard one loser. Plan your play.

Identify and count your losers. When the trump suit is unevenly split between declarer and dummy, count losers from the longer trump hand – usually declarer's hand.

AQJ962

J3 DEALER – 1 Spade
K83 2 Spades
94

74		K105	PASS
742	PASS	KQ109	PASS
AQ105	PASS	J76	
K1073		Q82	

83
A865 1 NT
942 PASS
AJ65

K of hearts lead, declarer wins the Ace and leads a spade to the jack, what card do you play and why?

AJ Dealer – 2 NT
KQ732 3 Hearts
AKQ
Q54

7652		KQ103	
54	PASS	106	PASS
J432		10875	PASS
K109		A62	

984
AJ98 3 Clubs (Stayman)
96 4 Hearts
J873

K of spades lead. Think of the 4 suits as follows:

1. Trump suit, draw as many as necessary
2. The "DON'T TOUCH SUIT", want the opponents to lead it, identify this suit at the beginning of play, so you don't play it yourself.
3. The "STRIP SUIT" play it in its entirety, remembering to ruff if necessary. Both hands strip this suit.
4. EXIT SUIT you play to throw the opponents in.

Plan your timing, which suit should be played first? Is drawing trumps the top priority? Is drawing trumps the top priority? Are there entry problems? Can you afford to lose the lead?