SIGNS

SIGNS ARE BASED ON THE NEED TO TELL PARTNER SOMETHING THEY NEED TO KNOW. THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF SIGNALS – ORDER OF PRIORITY.

1. ATTITUDE SIGNALS. I LIKE THAT SUIT: I DON’T LIKE THAT SUIT.

2. COUNT SIGNALS – I HAVE AN EVEN NUMBER OF CARDS IN A SUIT OR I HAVE AN ODD NUMBER OF CARDS IN A SUIT.

3. SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNALS – I LIKE A HIGHER-RANKING SUIT OR I LIKE A LOWER-RANKING SUIT


COPA

Count if Opponents initiate the trick, but if Partner initiates the trick, it’s an Attitude signal

A98742
95  DEALER 1 SPADE
AQ5  4 SPADES
K3

KQ10
10842  PASS
J10  PASS
9876

J653
Q76  2NT (JACOBY)
K73  PASS
AQJ

VOID
AKJ3  PASS
98642  PASS
10542

PARTNER LEADS ACE of HEARTS, DUMMY PLAYS 6, WHAT CARD DO YOU PLAY?
BETTER DISCARDING

TELL EACH OTHER WHAT SUIT YOU ARE SAVING OR NOT SAVING BY SIGNALING HIGH OR LOW AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

KEEP ONE CARD OF PARTNER’S LONG SUIT UNLESS YOU’RE NEVER GETTING IN AND IT’S LATE IN THE PLAY.

KEEP “DUMMY PARITY”. IF YOU AND THE DUMMY HAVE 4 CARDS IN A SUIT, SAVE ALL OF YOURS UNLESS YOURS ARE WORTHLESS SPOT CARDS.

TRY NOT TO SAVE THE SAME SUIT YOUR PARTNER’S SAVING.

TRY NOT TO SIGNAL WITH A TRICK OR A POTENTIAL TRICK. EXAMPLE: YOU HOLD KJ109 OR AQJ9, DON’T PITCH FROM THOSE SUITS EARLY. INSTEAD, PITCH LOW CARDS FROM SOME OTHER SUIT.

DON’T SIGNAL IF YOU HAVE ALL THE HIGH CARDS. IF PARTNER HAS ALL THE CARDS, BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE.

DON’T VOID YOURSELF IN A SUIT, DECLARER NOW KNOWS WHO TO FINESSE.

BRIDGE TIP

DECLARING AND NO TRUMP, FIRST THING YOU SHOULD DO IS CASH OUT A SOLID FOUR-CARD SUIT. WHY? BECAUSE DEFENDERS USUALLY DISCARD WASTEFULLY. THEY PITCH (DISCARD) AWAY TRICKS AND POTENTIAL TRICKS, SOMETIMES TO SIGNAL, SOMETIMES FROM HABIT.

“KEEP WINNERS, PITCH LOSERS”. 
K of Hearts lead, declarer wins ace, declarer leads a spade to jack. What card do you play and why?

J of Diamonds lead, declarer wins ace and cashes 4 clubs. What do you discard on the 3rd and 4th club?
5 OF SPADES LEAD, PARTNER PLAYS THE 3 (DISCOURAGES) DECLARER WINS AND LEADS DIAMONDS, PARTNER WINS THE 2ND DIAMOND, WHAT CARD DO YOU PLAY AND WHY?

IF FOR ANY REASON THE PARTNER OF THE OPENING LEADER WISHES A SWITCH TO A DIFFERENT SUIT, HE PLAYS LOW. THIS IS NOT A SUIT PREFERENCE – THE OPENING LEADER MUST THEN JUDGE WHICH SUIT PARTNER WANTS AND PLAYS ACCORDINGLY.

THE MOST IMPORTANT AND WIDELY USED SIGNAL IS THE COMMON SENSE SIGNAL.