

## UDCA (Upside Down Count and Attitude)

### Turn it all around



**Upside Down Count and Attitude** signals reverse the meanings of Standard Carding.

There is no consensus as to which way is best.

When following suit, Positive **Attitude** is with a small card, just the opposite of standard carding.

Count is also the opposite of Standard Carding with an echo being Low then High.

**Suit Preference** remains the same as Standard Carding with UDCA. Except for pros Jeff Mecksroth and Eric Rodwell, they reverse the Suit Preference signal, some say “Just to show they can”. They are obviously good.

A perceived advantage of UDCA is that you are playing little cards in suits that you like, rather than "middle cards" that could be pushers for future tricks.

*Recommended reading regarding odd even (Roman Discards) can be found at [Bridgebum.com/odd\\_even\\_discards.php](http://Bridgebum.com/odd_even_discards.php)*

### Lavinthal Discards

The first discard in an unwanted suit signifies suit preference. There are 4 suits, the 1 being lead, the 1 you don't like and are sluffing and 2 other suits.

A low card shows preference for the low suit (other than the suit of the sluffed signal card), while a high card asks partner to lead the high non-played suit.

Carding when following suit and Discards need to be discussed with your partner as they are a critical element in a good partnership for winning bridge.

**Odd/Even Discards (aka Roman Discards)** are a type of signal for attitude and suit preference. The first discard of a spot card has the following meanings:

- An odd spot card (9, 7, 5, 3) encourages that suit.
- A high even spot card discourages that suit, and is a suit-preference signal for the higher side suit.
- A low even spot card discourages that suit, and is a suit-preference signal for the lower side suit.

Odd/Even Discards are quite robust and often not permitted in some bridge venues.



## CARDING Tournament Series #15

[www.bridgewebs.com/borderlinebridge](http://www.bridgewebs.com/borderlinebridge)

#1 – Bridge Bidding Basics	#11 – Strips and Squeezes
#2 – Six Basic Conventions	#12 – Blackwood
#3 – Play of the Hand	#13 – Cue-bids
#4 – Defense	#14 – Flannery
#5 – Intermediate Bidding	#15 – Carding
#6 – Advanced (Two over One)	#16 – Four Suit Transfers
#7 – Stayman and Transfers	#17 – Weak No Trump
#8 – Lebensohl	#18 – Wolf Sign-off & XYZ
#9 – Doubles and Overcalls	#19 – Unusual/NMF/4SF
#10 – Online Bridge	#20 – One Level Transfers



### Grafton Duplicate Bridge Club

Thursday Noon – Ameriprise Financial Bldg  
Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 11am  
Director – Michael Leighton (701) 520-0753

### Grand Forks Duplicate Bridge Club

Monday 6:30pm – GF Senior Center  
Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 5:45pm  
Friday 12:30pm – EGF Senior Center  
Director – Tom Rand (701) 742-3676

### Ambassador Bridge Club Winnipeg MB

Tuesday 12:15pm – MB Bridge Centre  
Stratified Pairs  
Wednesday 7pm – MB Bridge Centre  
Invitational Pairs and Swiss Teams  
Thursday 1pm – (0 – 200) Temple Shalom  
Play and learn  
Saturday 12:30pm – MB Bridge Centre  
Swiss Teams  
Director – Bill and Sue Treble (204) 669-1458

## Standard Carding

### Recommended Carding

YOU HAVE  
TWO CHANCES:  
SLIM AND FAT



We are not just following suit. Every card means something and sends a message.

#### Especially Partner's Opening Lead

1<sup>st</sup> Priority - **ATTITUDE** (about 90% of the time on opening lead)

2<sup>nd</sup> Priority – **COUNT** (echo – high/low for even number – 90% of the time it is a doubleton, only if count is not clear and attitude is obvious) i.e. Partner leads 4<sup>th</sup> highest and Dummy has 2 honors higher than you and “goes up”. Since you cannot beat the dummy, your play cannot be ATTITUDE, it is COUNT.

3<sup>rd</sup> Priority – **SUIT PREFERENCE** (only when obvious – such a singleton in Dummy & partner led the Ace)

**Journalistic Leads** by agreement state the lead of the "Jack denies a higher honor" and a nine or ten promises "0 or 2 higher honors".

#### Attitude

We agree to lead the ACE from A/K. Partner leads the Ace against NT and you have Q92. Your play of the “9” indicates the Q as you know that partner is not foolish and would not lead a Blank ACE, s/he must have the KING against a NT contract. You are not giving COUNT. You are giving ATTITUDE. Partner can under lead the King to your Queen and you return a low card to let partner run the suit. Otherwise it is blocked.

#### Finer Points

When your partner is on lead and leads the ACE from A/K. If you have the something like Q982, your attitude card to play at the first trick is the “9”. Playing the “8” would deny having the “9” because when signaling you want to be as clear or emphatic as possible by playing the highest of touching honors.

If partner has the A/K/10, partner will continue the suit with the King and you then follow with the deuce. Clearly showing ATTITUDE so that partner continues the suit for you to run. On the other hand, if partner has 5 of the suit from A/K then partner would under lead the King at trick two so that partner can run the suit.

#### Count

However, , let's say that the QJ9 are in Dummy and partner has led the ACE against a suit. Now if you play the 8, because you cannot have the Queen for ATTITUDE, the eight is the beginning of an echo and implies 2 cards in the suit.

Of course, you could be singleton, but that is fine. The echo gives partner an opportunity to count the suit around the table. If partner has a 5 card suit, therefore if you have 2 and the dummy has QJ9, partner knows to cash the K and play a 3<sup>rd</sup> card in the suit to give you a ruff or establish 2 winners when partner has an outside entry for No Trump.

#### Suit Preference

Finally, if playing a suit contract and partner leads the ACE and dummy has a singleton in that suit, then your play is SUIT PREFERENCE as it would make no sense for partner to continue the suit and give declarer a possible ruff and sluff.

A low card says change suits to the LOWEST ranking suit that is not trump and a high card says change suits to the HIGHEST ranking suit that is not trump. In our example, if partner leads the ACE of HEARTS and SPADES are trump and dummy has a singleton Heart, then the 9 of Hearts says “switch to Diamonds – the highest side suit” and the 2 of Hearts says “switch to Clubs – the lowest side suit”.

#### Discards

When discarding, the play of a low card says “I don't like this suit” and the play of a high card says “I like this suit, play it next”.

It can be expensive to play 9s and tens to show that you like a suit and oftentimes you won't have a card to show that you like a suit.

It is best to play a low card in the suit you don't like as you are wasting nothing and by inference partner should know to play the other suit. There are only 2 suits outside of trump in addition to the suit that partner is leading. If you don't like one, you might like the other.