

## §64. Encouraging-Discouraging Signals.

### Notes on the basic principles to be taught in this section.

- This chapter is all about simple encouraging/discouraging signals in response to partner's lead.
- A high card encourages, a low card discourages. Although this applies throughout the hand, emphasis here is on a reaction to the opening lead.

Five deals need preparing (overleaf). Two of the deals ("Hands" 1 & 2) are not full deals, the other three deals are (Hands 3, 4 and 5).

For "Hands" 1 & 2 the suits need examining in turn, with just the relevant cards exposing.

"**Hand**" 1 is there to illustrate suit combinations and general principles. It contains four suit combinations that are represented in the student notes in Examples 1-5.

The suits have been rotated from the orientation displayed in the student notes so that North is not always leading, West not always declarer.

Spades appear as Examples 1 & 2 in the student notes. West leads, North is dummy, East signals;  
Hearts appear as Example 3 in the student notes. South leads, West is dummy, North signals;  
Diamonds appear as Example 4 in the student notes. East leads, South is dummy, West signals;  
Clubs appear as Example 5 in the student notes. North leads, East is dummy, South signals.

"**Hand**" 2 is there to illustrate suit combinations and general principles. It contains four suit combinations that are represented in the student notes in Examples 6-10.

The suits have been rotated from the orientation displayed in the student notes so that North is not always leading, West not always declarer.

Spades appear as Examples 6 in the student notes. West leads, North is dummy, East signals;  
Hearts appear as Example 7 in the student notes. South leads, West is dummy, North signals;  
Diamonds appear as Example 8 in the student notes. East leads, South is dummy, West signals;  
Clubs appear as Example 9 in the student notes. North leads, East is dummy, South signals;

**Hand 3** (appears as Hand 1 in the student notes, rotated 90°) shows how East can use a vehement high-low signal (or peter) to take a third-round ruff.

West leads the ♠A against South's 4♥ and East *peters* by playing the ♠10 and then the ♠4. West plays a third Spade, ruffed by East and the defence has three early tricks.

Note how the defence, having taken three tricks, should sit and wait for the fourth defensive trick.

**Hand 4** (appears as Hand 2 in the student notes) is very similar to **Hand 3** (or Hand 1, student notes) but is crucially different. It is there for contrast with the previous deal.

North leads the ♠A against West's 4♥ and South plays his lowest Spade to discourage. North may or may not cash a second Spade, but he switches to the ♣Q and the defence have four tricks. Three rounds of Spades would be disastrous.

**Hand 5** (appears as Hand 3 in the student notes, rotated 90°) illustrates a deliberate non-signal.

East leads the ♠A against North's 4♥ and West plays his lowest Spade to discourage, despite having a doubleton. He does not want a ruff holding a natural trump trick. East, fooled into thinking his partner has three Spades, tries a Diamond switch... and this beats the hand.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Hand” 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A K 4 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ A 8 5 ♣ J 10 9 4</p> <p>Lead</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">♠ 10 6 5 2</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 15%;">♠ Q 9 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>♥ A K 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td>♥ Q J 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>♦ K 7 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td>♦ J 10 9 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>♣ A K 8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td>♣ Q 6 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 8 7 ♥ 10 6 5 2 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ 7 5 2</p>	W	♠ 10 6 5 2	N	♠ Q 9 3	S	♥ A K 4	W	♥ Q J 7	E	♦ K 7 2	E	♦ J 10 9 4	N	♣ A K 8	S	♣ Q 6 3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Hand” 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 5 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ A K 10 6 2</p> <p>Lead</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 15%;">♠ A K 7 6 2</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 15%;">♠ 10 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>♥ Q 8 5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td>♥ J 10 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>♦ Q 9 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td>♦ A K 7 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>♣ Q 9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td>♣ 8 7 5 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 9 8 ♥ A K 7 6 2 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ J 4</p>	W	♠ A K 7 6 2	N	♠ 10 4	S	♥ Q 8 5	W	♥ J 10 9	E	♦ Q 9 3	E	♦ A K 7 2	N	♣ Q 9	S	♣ 8 7 5 3
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