

Pattern Theory



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Time for a Joke

Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He's not breathing, and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his cell phone and calls 911.

“I think my friend is dead!” he yells. “What can I do?”

The operator says, “Calm down. First, let’s make sure he’s dead.”

There’s a silence, then a shot rings out.

Back on the phone, the guy says, “OK, now what?”

Most hands are horse races. Declarer must set up his winners before the defense does. This is the home of Pattern Theory.

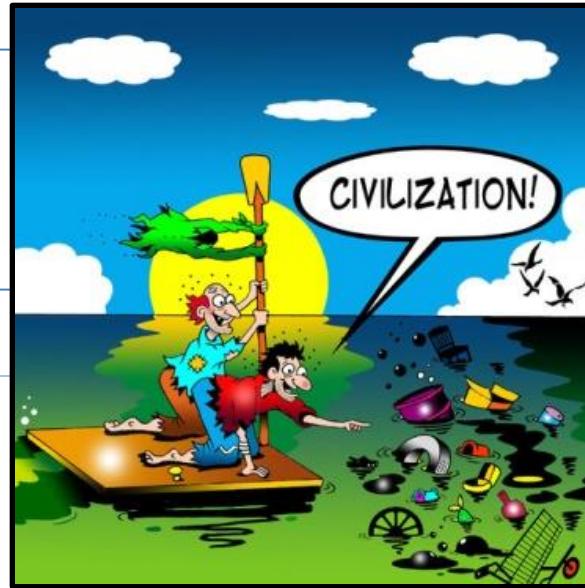
Declaring Strategies

- 1) **Count your winners and losers.**
- 2) **Find ways to increase winners and reduce losers.**
- 3) **Look for long suits (not trumps) in either hand that can be established. Will finessing help?**
- 4) **Can you ruff on the short side of trumps (suit contracts only)?**
- 5) **Look for obscure plays, like squeezes, coups and end plays.**



By the way, very few hands are 'mirror images'.

Pattern Theory



North	East	South	West
		1S	Pass
3S	Pass	4S	Pass

North
 ♠ XXXX
 ♥ XXXXX
 ♦ X
 ♣ XXX

Dlr = South

West
 ♠ 8
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

Vul = All

Lead = 8♠

But how do I decide which long suit to establish?

East
 ♠
 ♥
 ♦
 ♣

Let's explore discard possibilities.

♣'s only.

No.

Declarer's considerations:

- 1) Do I ruff things on the short side of trump, or should I draw trumps?
- 2) Which long suit(s) can I establish?
- 3) How do I get back to the long suit, once it's established?

South
 ♠ XXXXX
 ♥ XXX
 ♦ XX
 ♣ XXX

♦'s or ♣'s.

Ignore trumps – they're for ruffing and transportation, not discarding.

- 1) What losers in South's hand can be discarded on North's long ♥'s?
- 2) What losers in North's hand can be discarded on South's long ♦'s?
- 3) Any discards coming in clubs?

Support Double,
showing 3-card
♠ support

Pattern Theory On Offense (1)

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1S	2H
Dbl*	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Dlr = North

Lead = K♥

West

- ♠ J52
- ♥ KQ1084
- ♦ J109
- ♣ A6

Pattern Theory says that the only sluffs are coming from the club suit.

It's important to set the clubs up before drawing trumps, since Declarer may have to ruff his third heart in the Dummy.

North

- ♠ A74
- ♥ 65
- ♦ AK3
- ♣ J10952

East

- ♠ 98
- ♥ J93
- ♦ Q854
- ♣ Q743

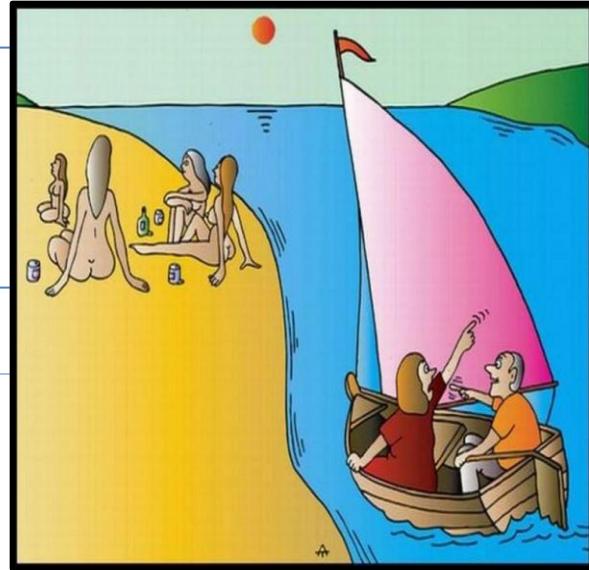
South

- ♠ KQ1063
- ♥ A72
- ♦ 762
- ♣ K8



PLAN OF ATTACK:
Duck the K♥ lead and take the next one.
Ruff a ♥ in dummy and play a low club to your 8♣.
Draw trumps and cash the K♣.
Cross to Dummy's A♦ and take a ruffing finesse in clubs against the Q♣.

Pattern Theory: On Defense (1)



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
2NT*	Pass	5D	1S
Pass	Pass		Pass

North

- ♠ A5
- ♥ 6
- ♦ Q10952
- ♣ K9875

Dlr = West

Lead = ???

West

- ♠ KQ1093
- ♥ AQJ
- ♦ J43
- ♣ 6

What should
West's opening
lead be?

East

- ♠ J6
- ♥ 107532
- ♦ 86
- ♣ Q1032

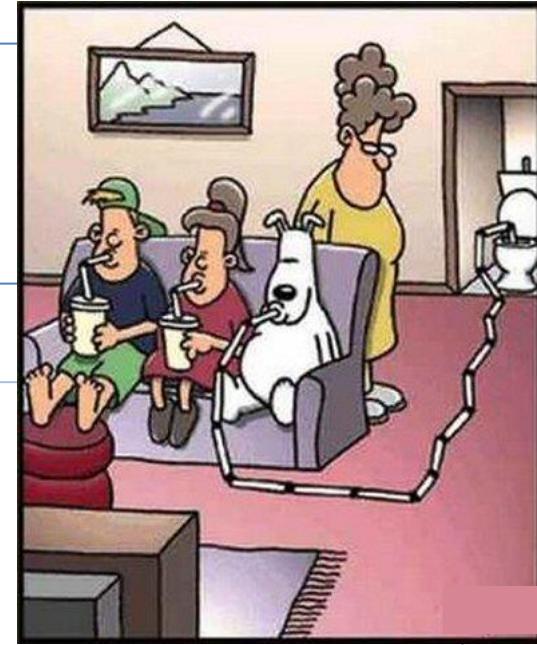
Pattern Theory says it is usually not wise to lead a non-trump suit known to be long in either declarer's hand or the dummy's hand. Setting up side suits is declarer's job, not defenders!

South

- ♠ 8742
- ♥ K984
- ♦ AK7
- ♣ AJ4

Unless you know Partner has the suit well covered.

Pattern Theory: On Defense (2)



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1H	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	2S	Pass
3D	Pass	3H	Pass
4H	Pass	Pass	Pass

Dlr = North

Lead = ???

West

- ♠ Q1093
- ♥ 10832
- ♦ 743
- ♣ 63

What should
East's opening
lead be?

North

- ♠ A5
- ♥ AQJ96
- ♦ Q10952
- ♣ 5

East

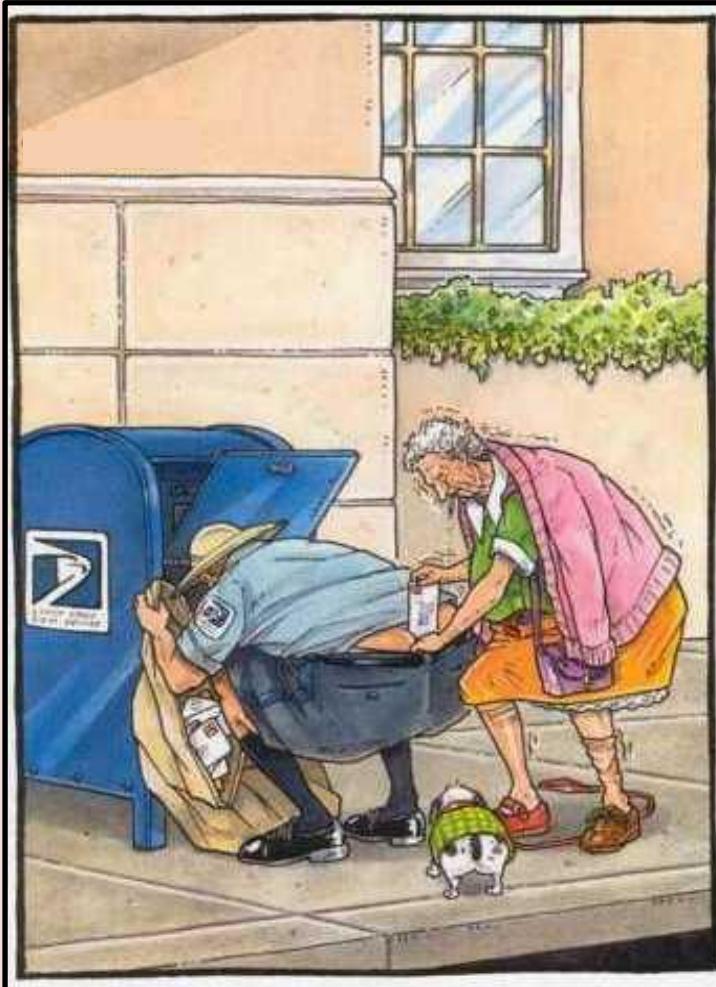
- ♠ K86
- ♥ 54
- ♦ AJ8
- ♣ K10984

The defense needs to break the suit that the hand with the long trumps needs to ruff. Leading any of the opponents' 3 long suits only helps them.

South

- ♠ J742
- ♥ K7
- ♦ K6
- ♣ AQJ72

Another Joke



“Oh, why didn’t I bring my
glasses, Fido?

Pattern Theory: On Defense (3)

* East confirms to his partner that he has at least 4 ♦'s.

North	East	South	West
	1D	2C	2D
3C	3D*	Pass	Pass
4C	Pass	Pass	Pass

North
 ♠ A92
 ♥ 64
 ♦ 10983
 ♣ AQ84

Dlr = East

Lead = A♦

West
 ♠ K1053
 ♥ 987
 ♦ A762
 ♣ 73

But what does East play at trick #2?

Remember, timing is everything on defense.

East
 ♠ QJ4
 ♥ KQ103
 ♦ KQJ5
 ♣ 102

Solving the puzzle!

- 1) If East has 5+ hearts, he would've opened 1H.
- 2) If East has 3 or less hearts, South would have 5+ hearts, and he would've overcalled 1H.
- 3) Therefore, East and South must each have exactly 4 hearts.

South
 ♠ 876
 ♥ AJ52
 ♦ 4
 ♣ KJ965

Can we afford to quietly play a ♦ next?
 Can Declarer discard hearts on spades?
 Can Declarer discard spades on hearts?
 How safe is it to break a new suit?
 West should switch to the 3♠ before South can develop his ♥ suit.



Playtime

**My kids say they
want a cat for
Christmas.**

**Normally I do a
turkey but hey, if
it'll make 'em
happy...**