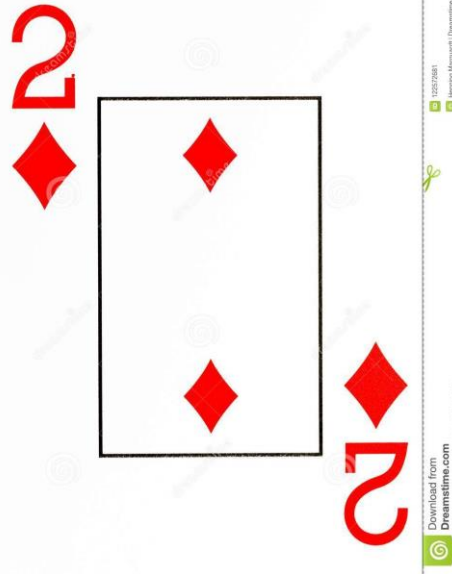


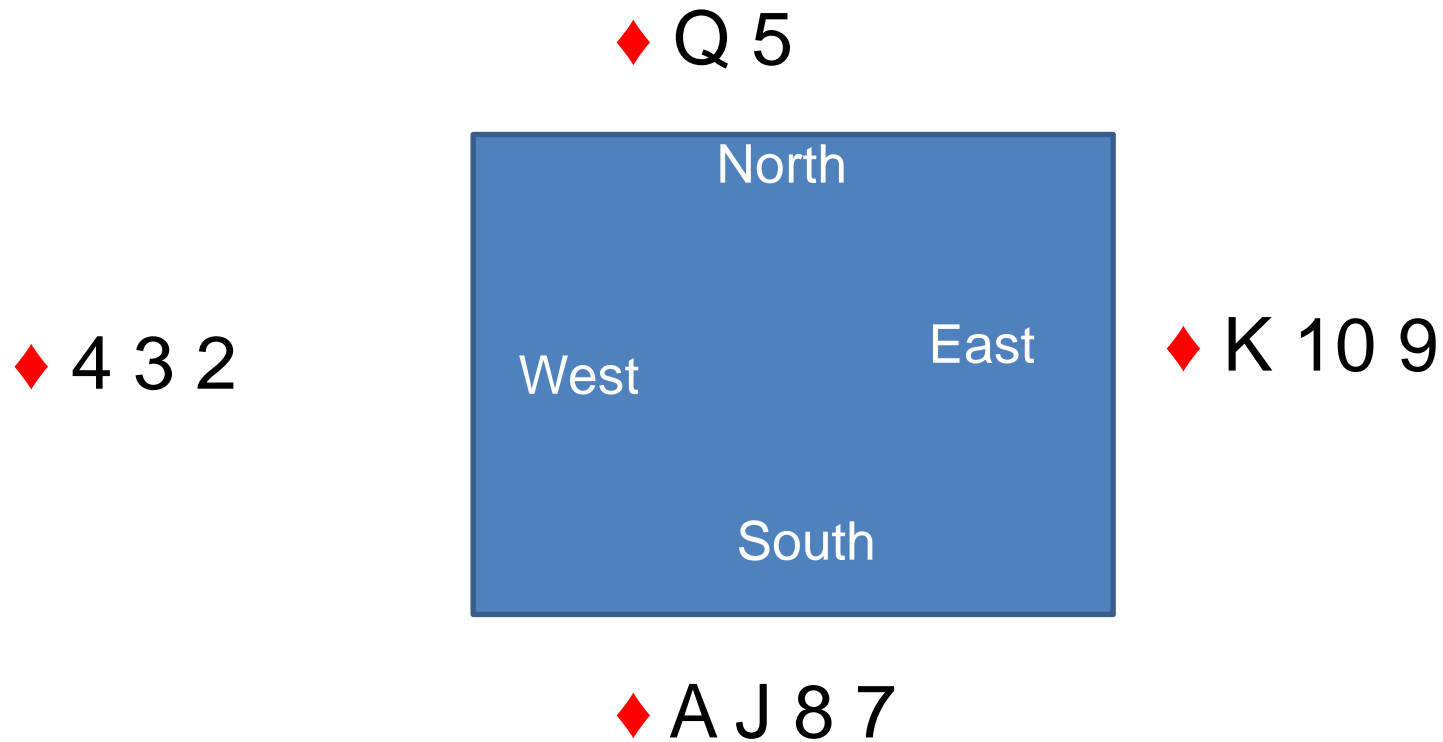
Playing the Second Hand



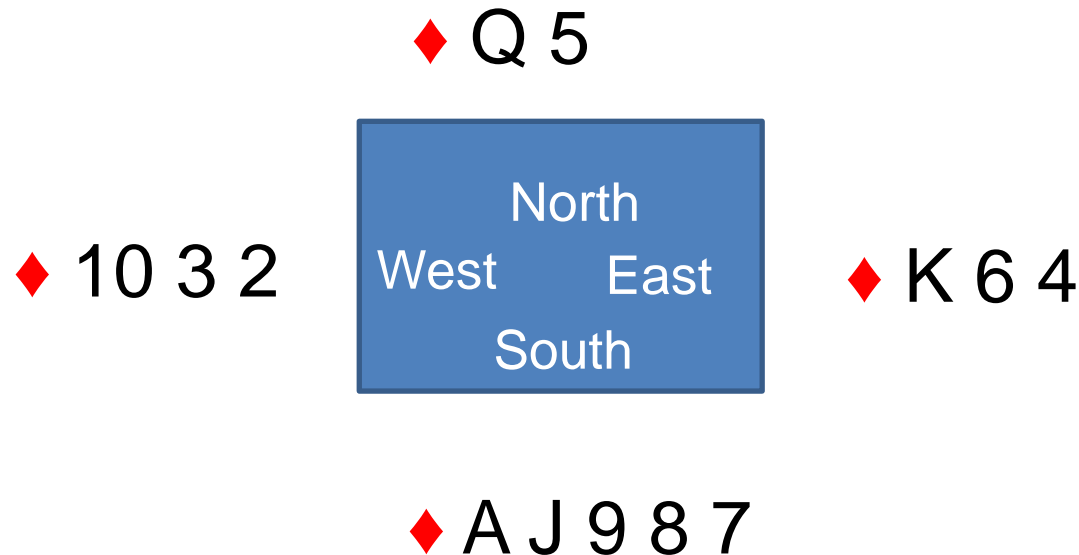
Second Hand Play

- When thinking of second hand play, there are two aphorisms you have heard a thousand times.
 - Second hand low.
 - Cover an honor with an honor.
- Like most maxims, there is a kernel of truth in them both, but if you follow them blindly, they will often lead you astray.

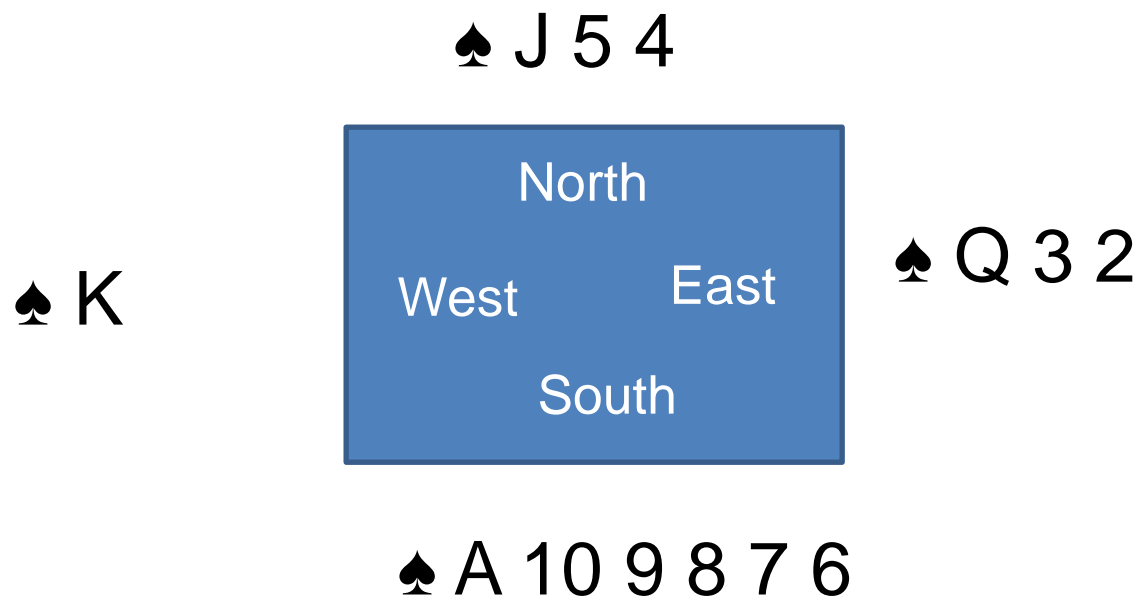
Cover an honor with an honor in order to promote lower cards (9s or 10s) in your hand or partner's hand.



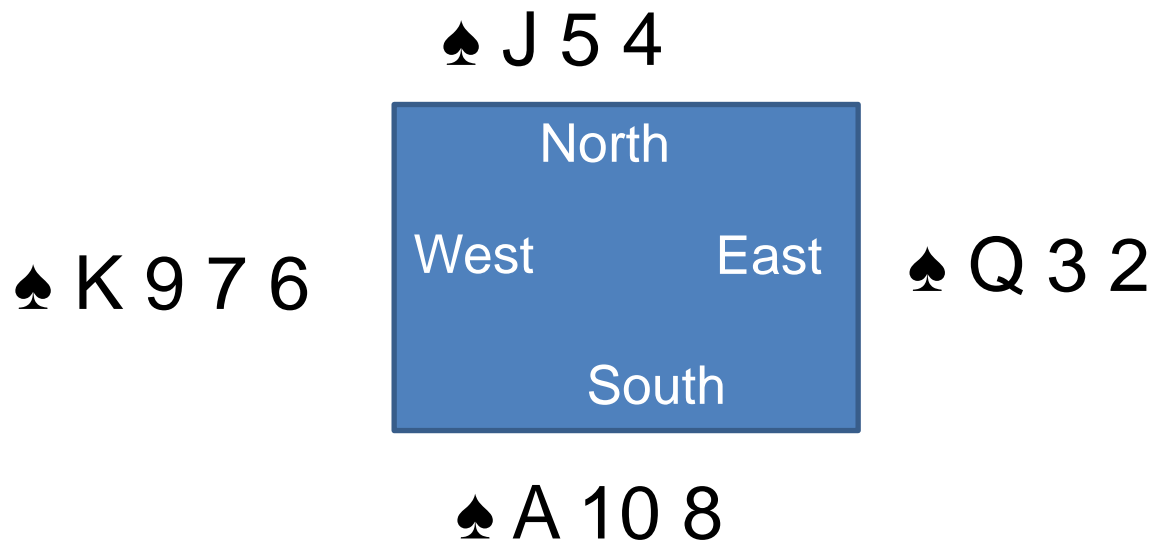
When you cannot promote something in your hand perhaps you can promote a 10 or 9 in partner's hand.



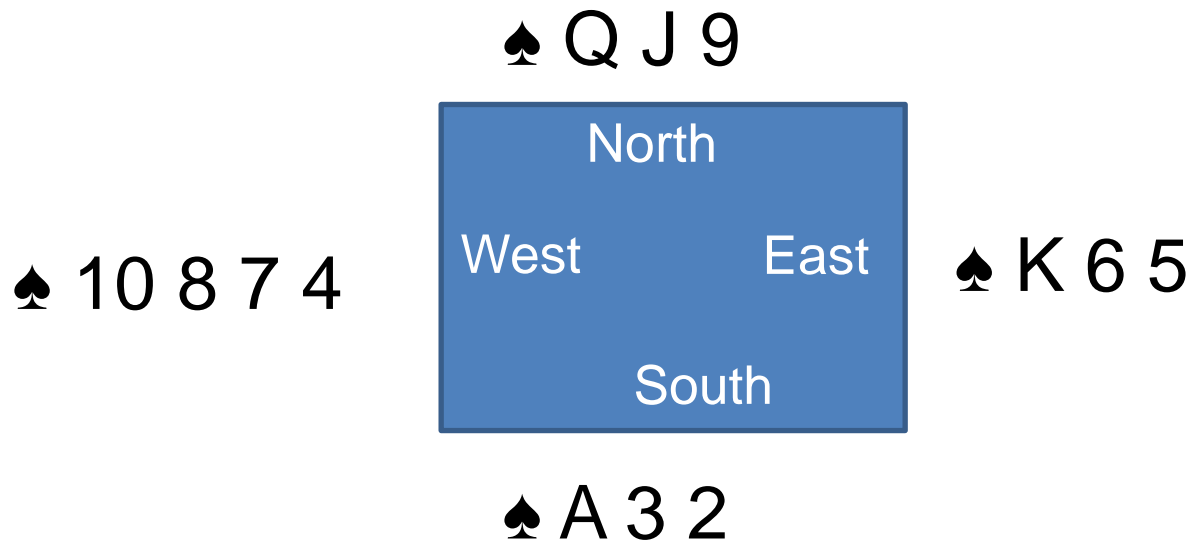
Don't cover when it is not possible to set up a trick.
In the following situation, South opened with 2 ♠
and North bid 4 ♠. South wins the opening lead in
dummy.



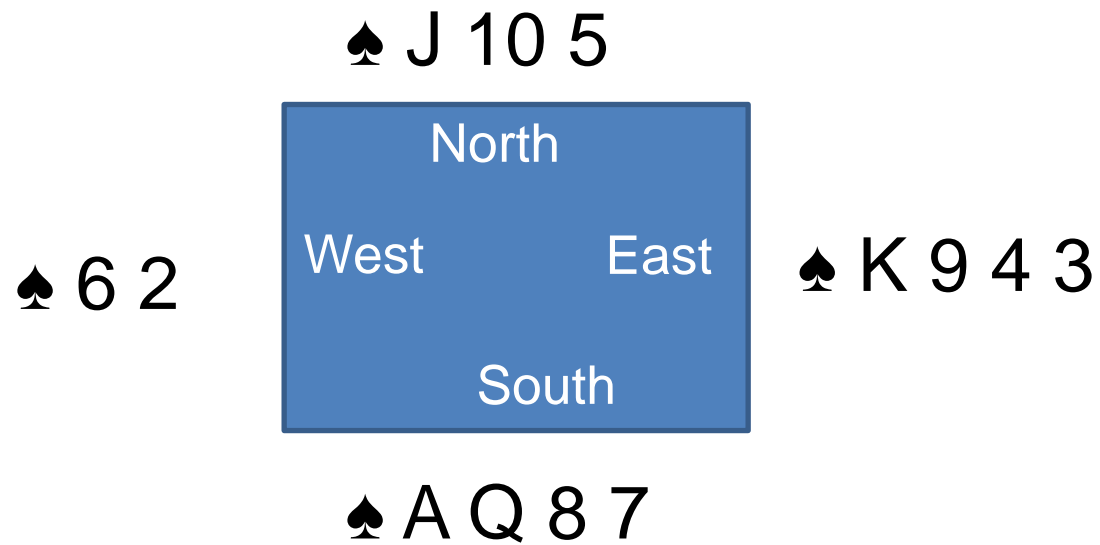
Consider a similar situation with different bidding.
1nt ...3 nt. Again, South wins the opening lead in
dummy.



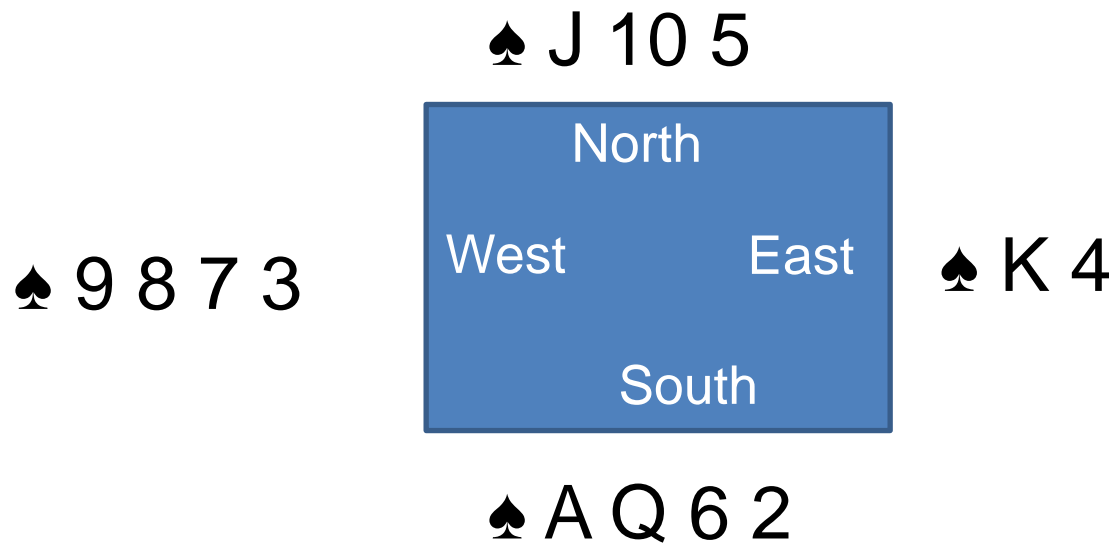
When dummy has touching honors, cover the last one in the sequence, when you can.



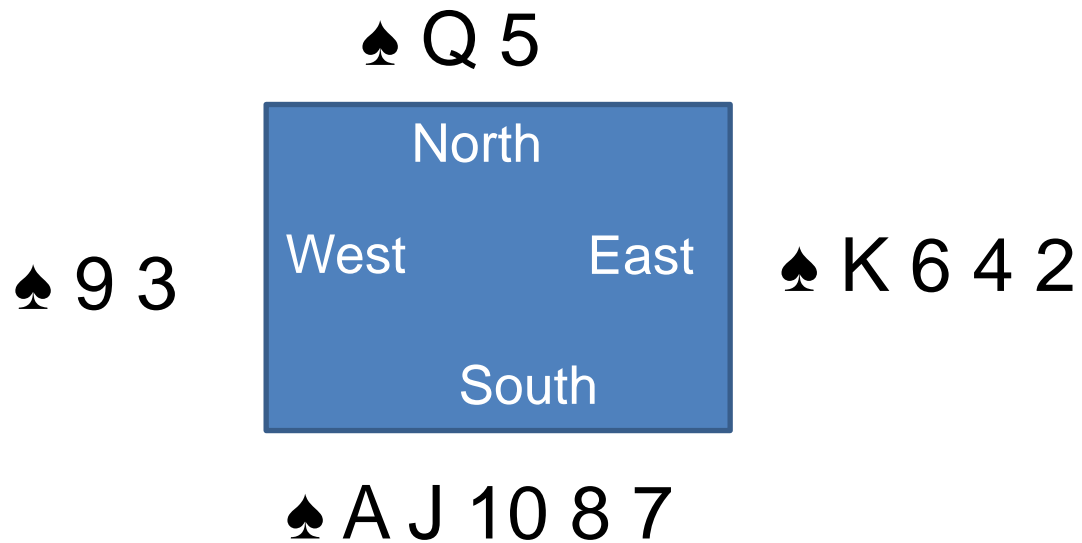
Another example ... cover the last card of a sequence.



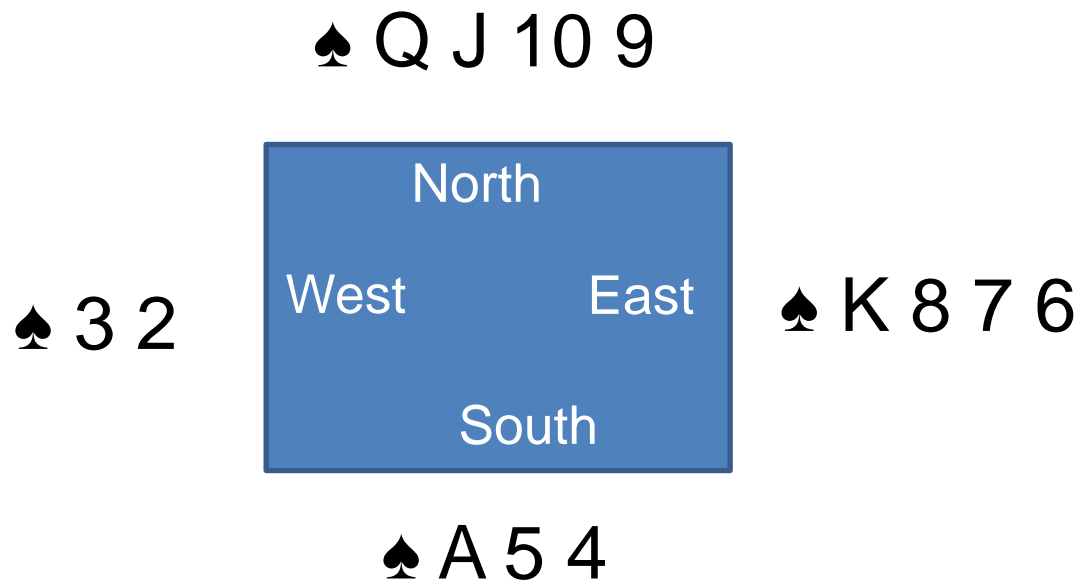
Cover the last card of a sequence. However, if all you have is a doubleton, cover the first lead.



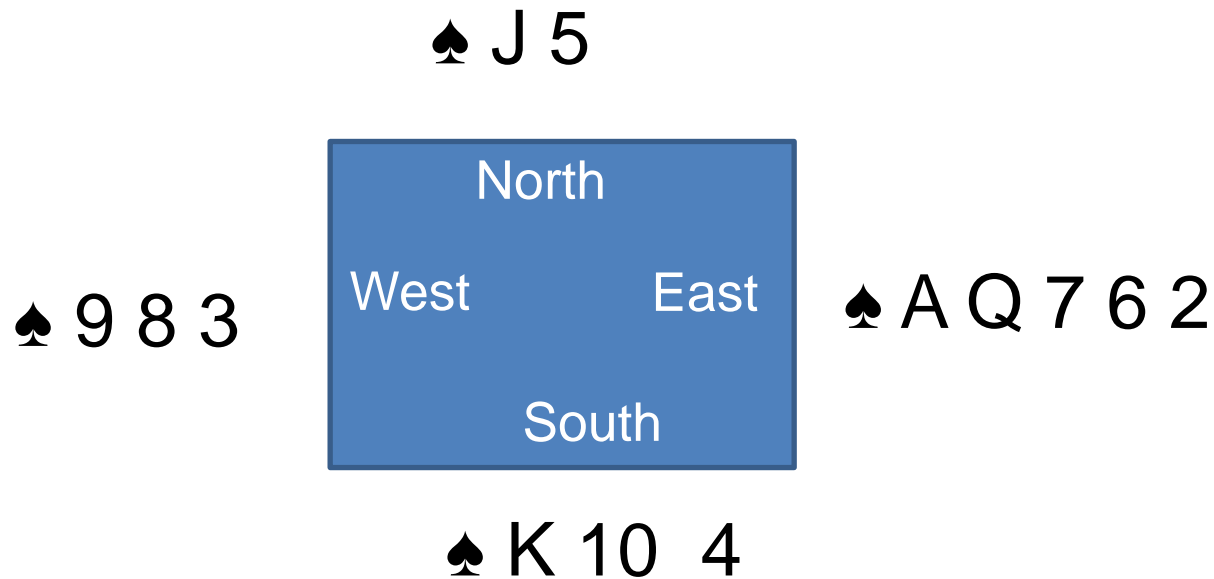
Don't cover when you can hold up longer than declarer.



Even if dummy has 4 equal honors, if you can, hold up until the last of the sequence is played .



When a jack is led from dummy and you have A Q x, it is usually best to play the ace. .



Look at this situation with an entire hand:

Contract 6♣.
West leads the
♠ Q

♠ 7 3 2
♥ A Q J 9 5
♦ 8 6
♣ J 7 3

♠ Q J 10 4 3
♥ 10 4
♦ 9 7 5 3 2
♣ 2

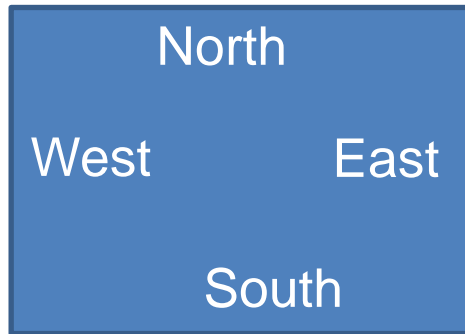


♠ 9 8 6
♥ K 8 7 3 2
♦ 10 4
♣ A Q 8

♠ A K
♥ 5
♦ A K Q J
♣ K 10 9 6 4 3

When dummy leads a low card, you usually play second hand low.

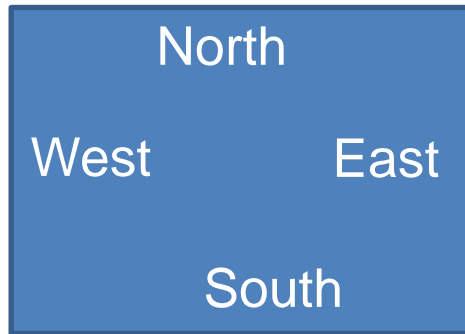
♠ 8 6 4



♠ K 9 2

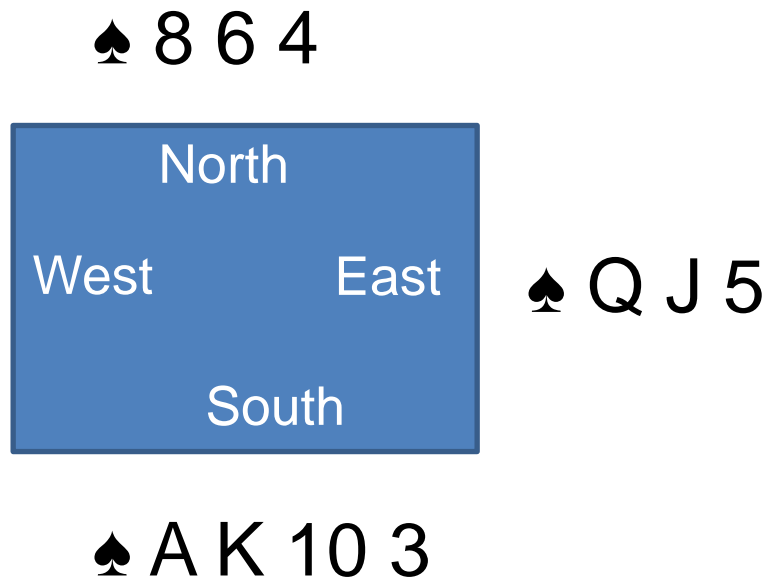
When dummy leads a low card, you usually play second hand low.

♠ 8 6 4

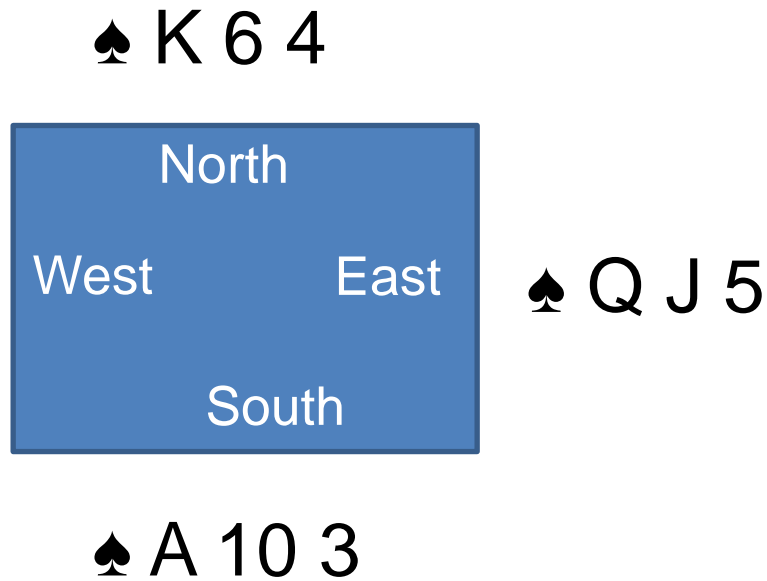


♠ A 9 5 2

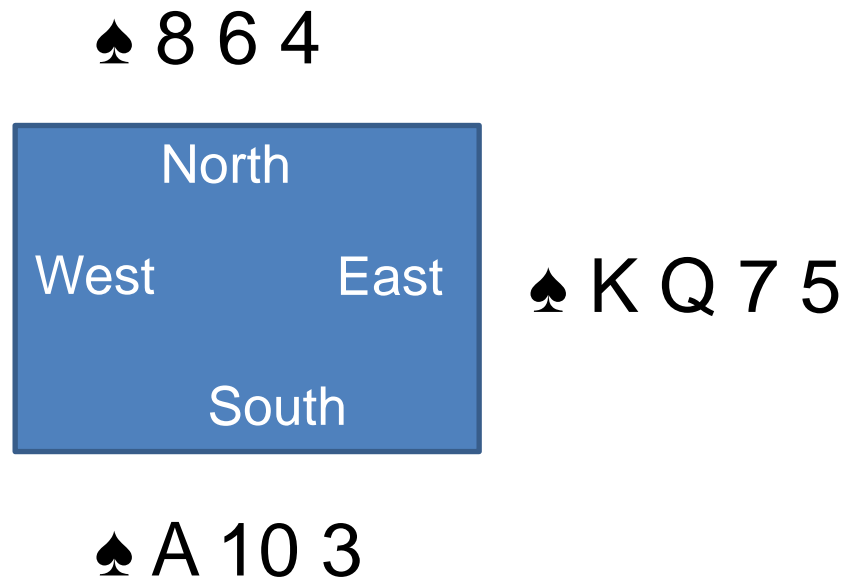
When dummy leads a low card, you usually play second hand low. .



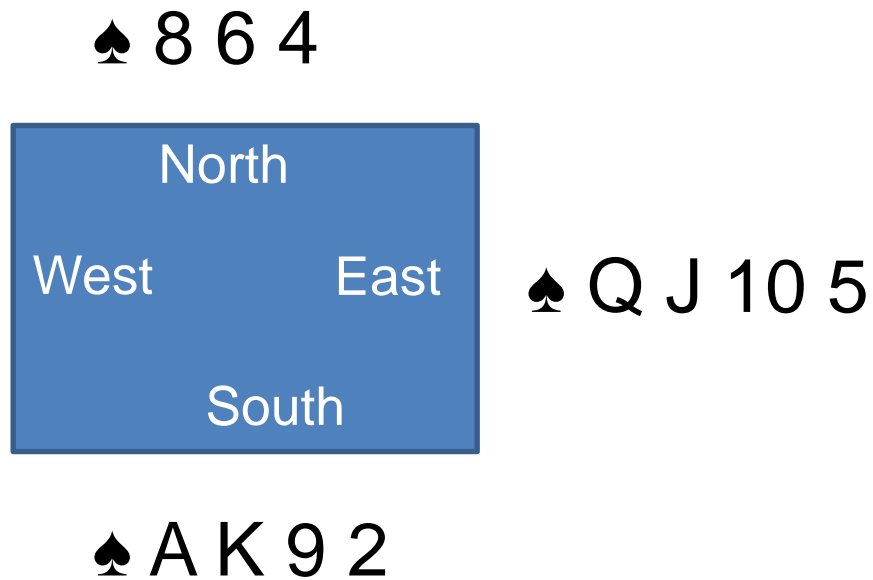
When dummy leads a low card, you usually play second hand low.



When dummy leads a low card, you usually play second hand low.



When dummy leads a low card, you usually play second hand low.

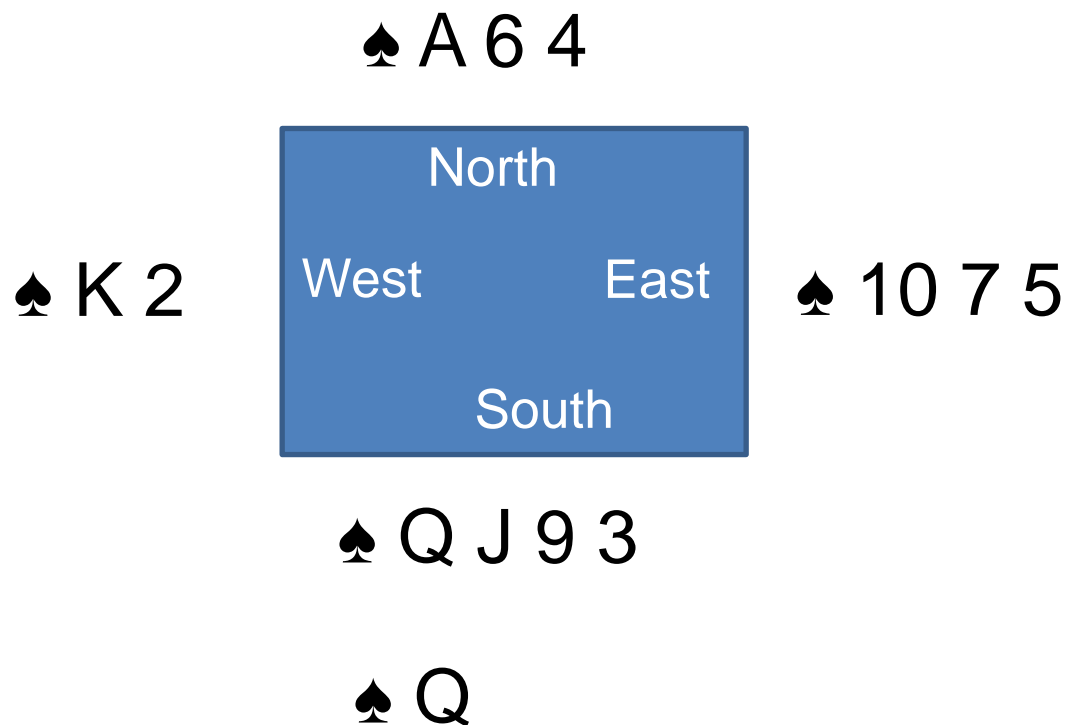


When
Declarer
Leads

When Declarer Leads an Honor

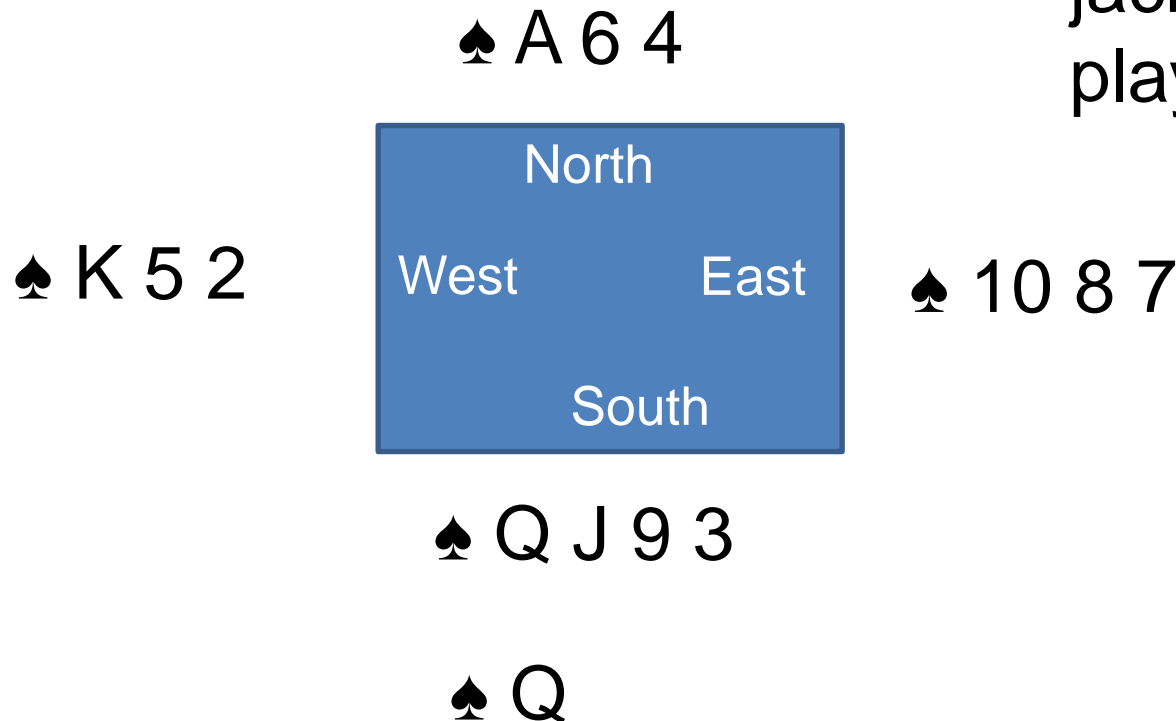
- Declarer leads an honor and you have a higher honor. Dummy has still higher honor. Should you cover? ...Maybe.
 - How many cards in that suit is partner likely to have? Is promotion possible?
 - Is it the trump suit, confidently bid?
 - Unless you can see it in your hand or dummy, assume declarer has the card immediately below the honor card led.

Declarer leads the queen, you have the king and dummy has the ace.



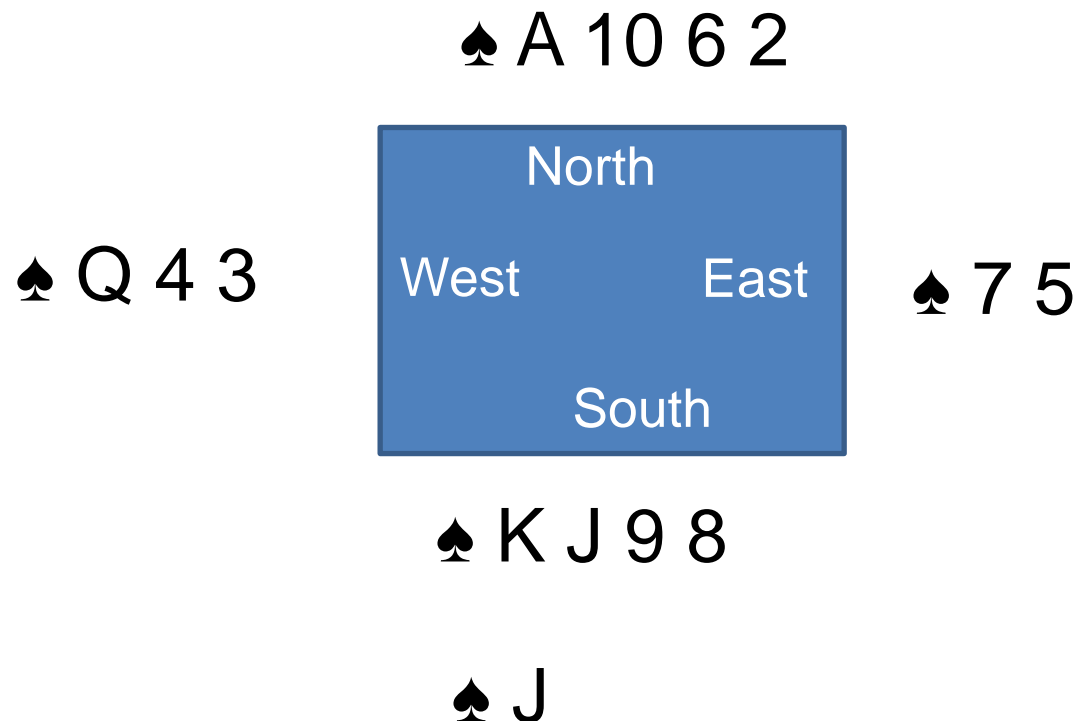
Declarer leads an honor, you have a higher honor and dummy has a higher honor yet.

Assume declarer has the Jack. Cover the jack, if played.



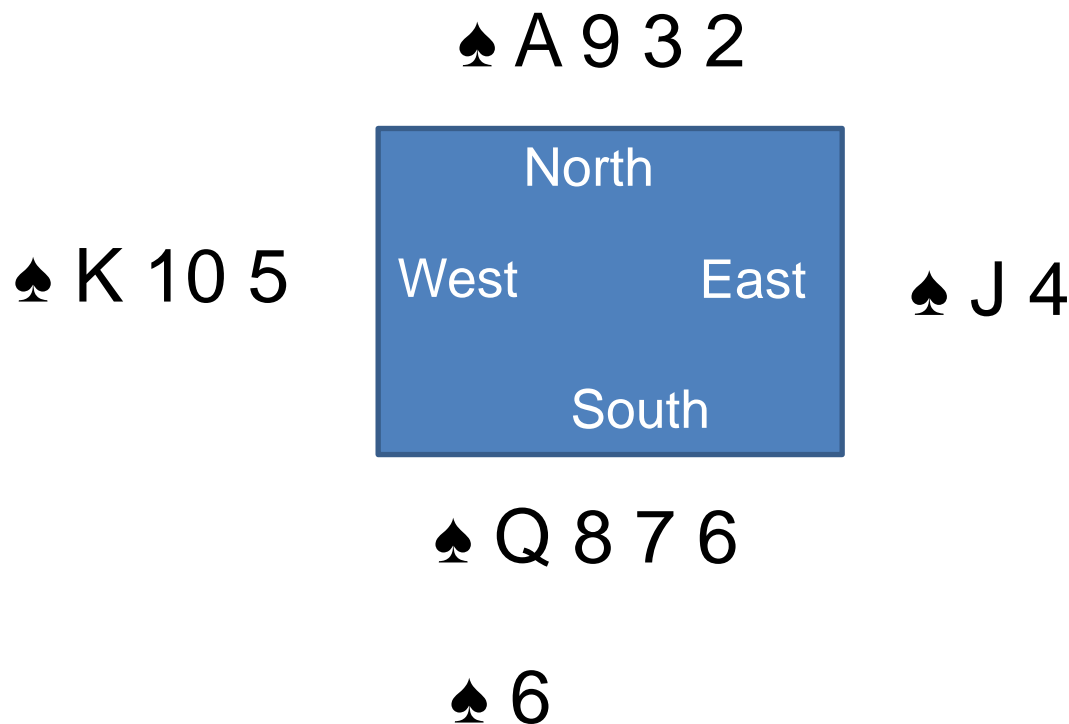
When declarer leads a Jack, you have the Queen, and dummy has the ace:

If declarer has shortness, cover. If not, don't cover.



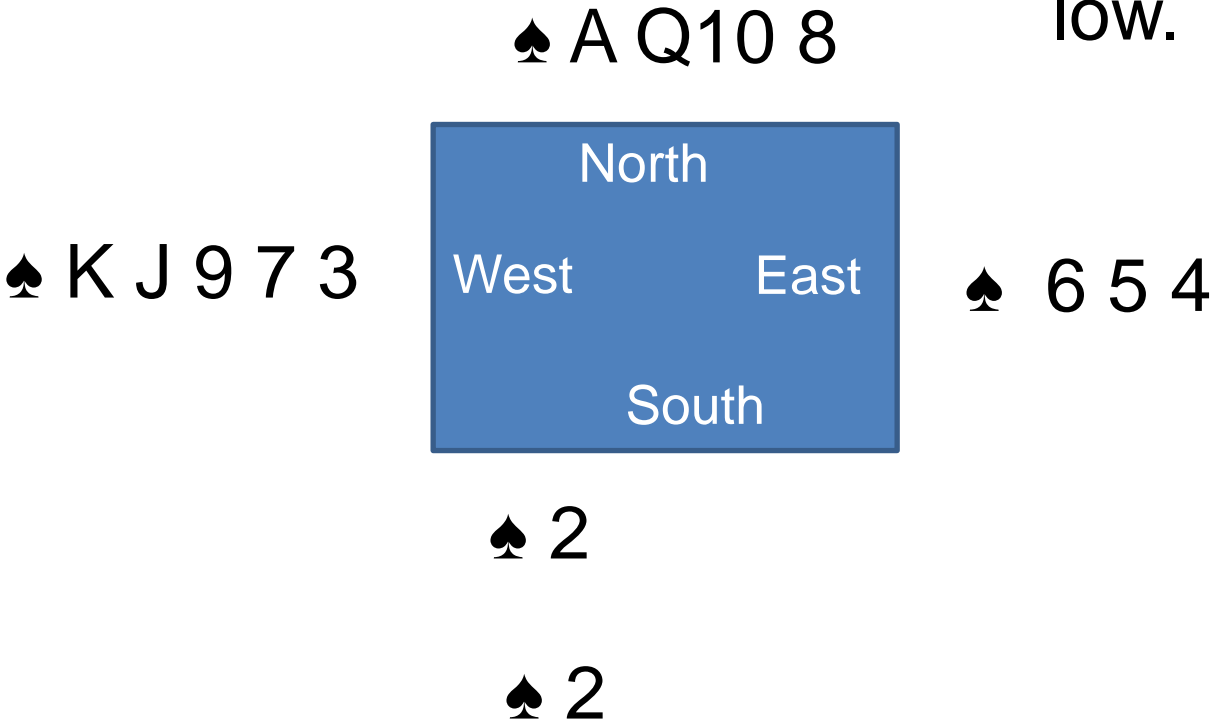
When Declarer leads a low card and dummy has an honor or two, play low.

Don't play to force dummy's honor.



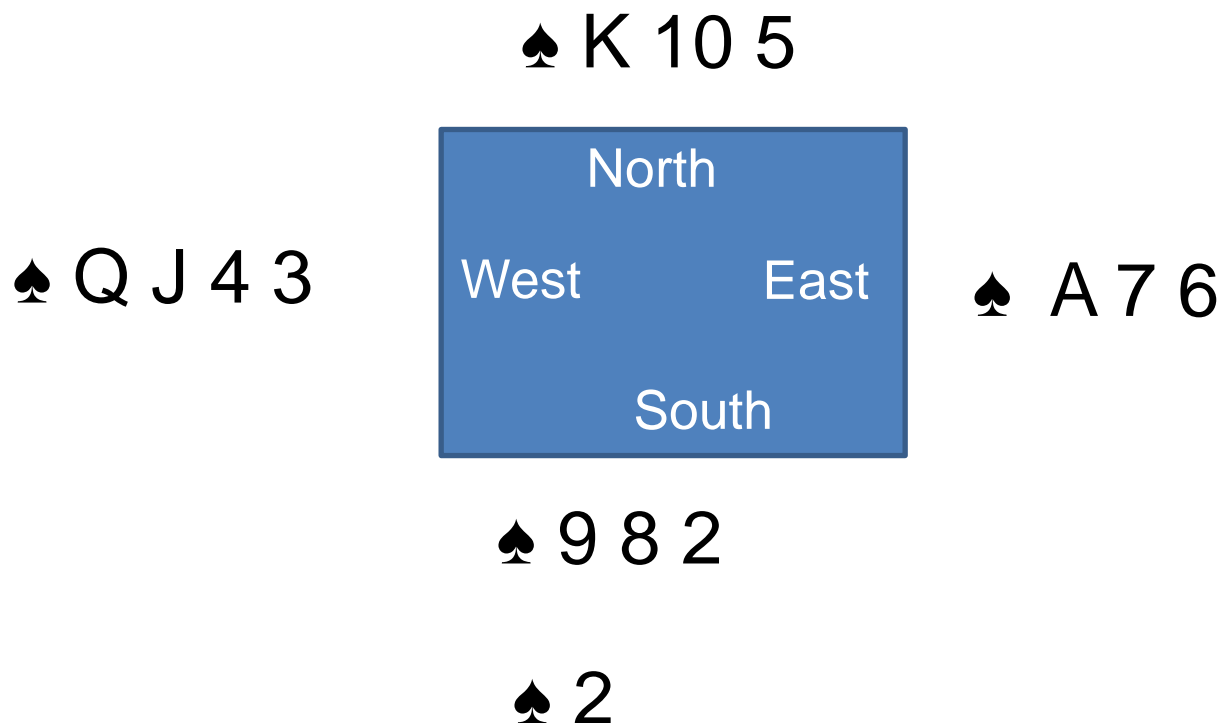
When Declarer leads a low card and dummy has an honor or two, play low.

When dummy can cover everything, you have to play low.



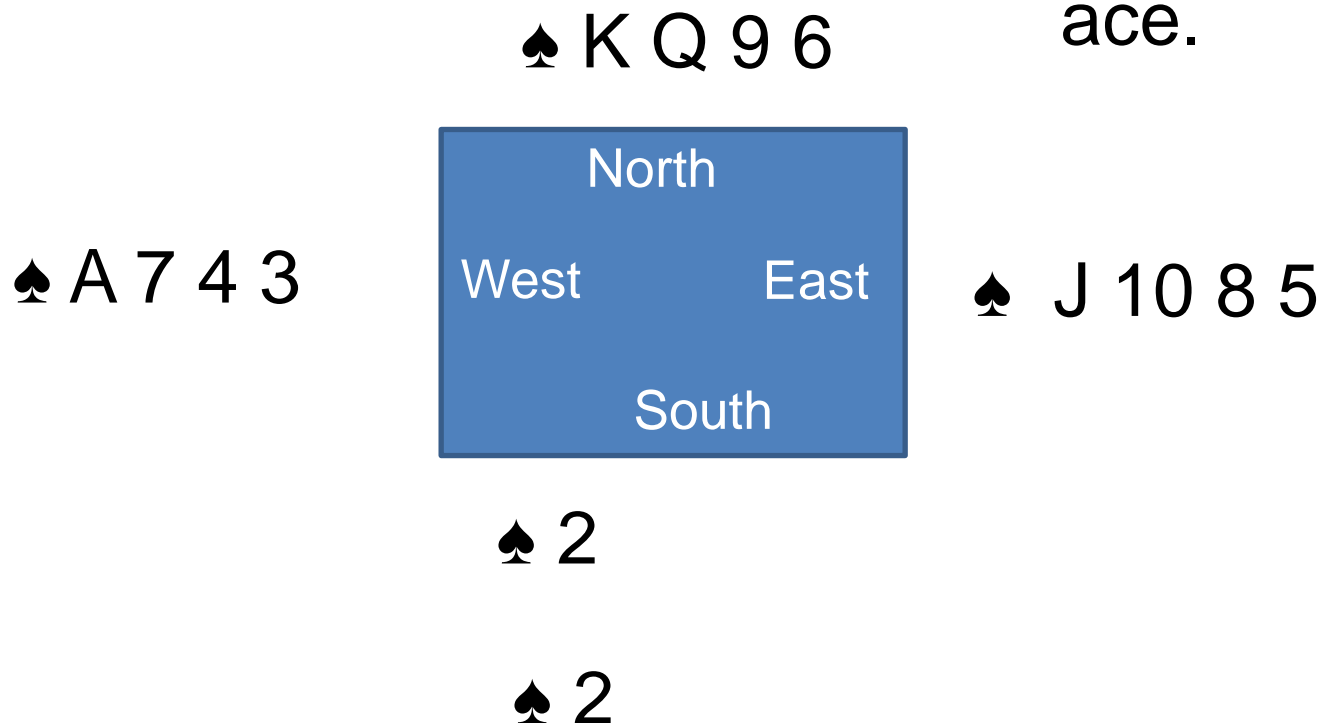
When Declarer leads a low card and dummy has an honor or two, play low.

This is a touchy one. Who do you think has the ace?



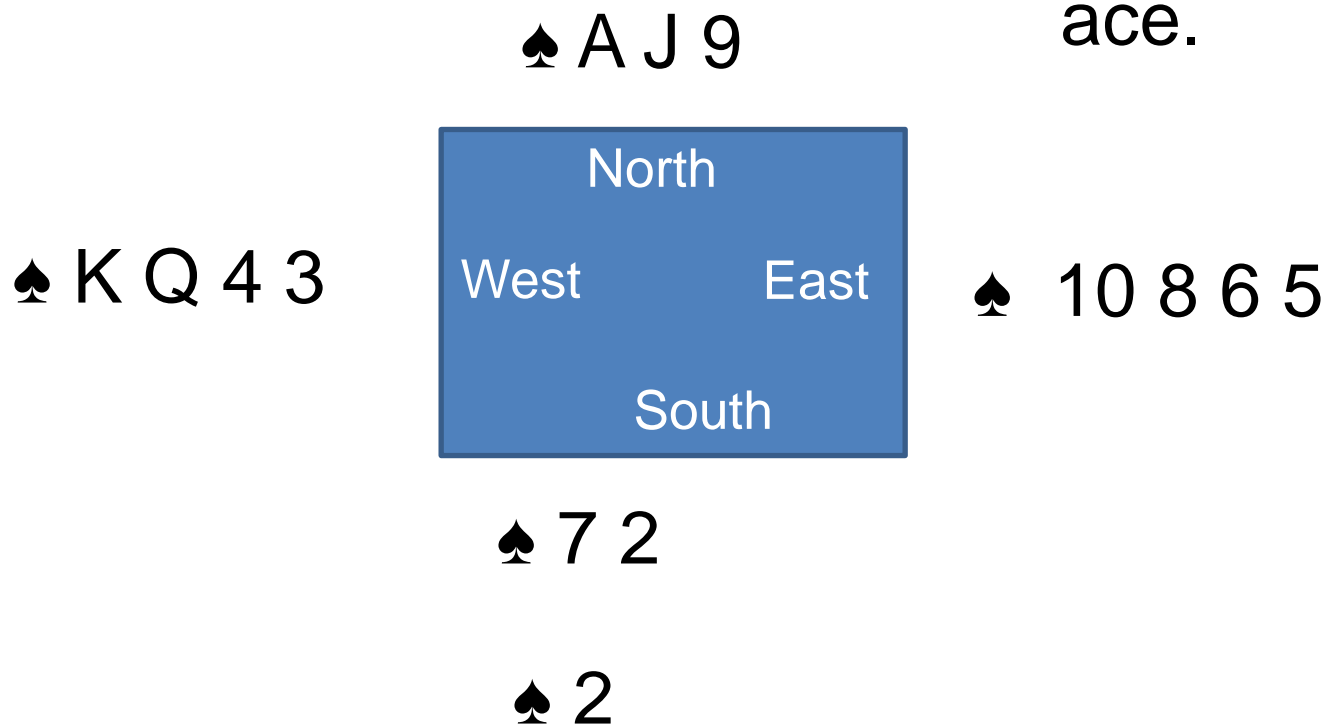
When Declarer leads a low card and dummy has an honor or two, play low.

It is probably best to play low on the first lead, then take the ace.



When Declarer leads a low card and dummy has an honor or two, play low.

It is probably best to play low on the first lead, then take the ace.



Look at this situation with an entire hand

Contract 6♥.
West leads the
♦ Q

♠ K Q 5
♥ A Q 9 6
♦ 6 5 4
♣ A K 3

♠ A 10 7 6
♥ 4 2
♦ Q J 10
♣ J 9 6 3



♠ J 9 8 3 2
♥ 5
♦ 9 7 3 2
♣ Q 10 4

♠ 4
♥ K J 10 8 7 3
♦ A K 8
♣ 8 7 2