

# The End Play in Bridge: You Can Do Them Just Like Marty.



# What is an End Play in Bridge?

- An end play occurs when, near the end of a hand, a defender is:
  - Put on lead, and
  - Forced to lead a suit that helps the declarer.

# How Does a Declarer Force an Endplay?

- Of course, an endplay is not available on every hand.
- An endplay is available when certain conditions exist, which a declarer must recognize.
  - There is a suit which is better for the declarer if it is led by a defender.
  - The declarer can put that defender on lead.
  - The declarer can eliminate the defender's options.

# Recognizing a Suit Better Led by a Defender

You see suits like this regularly when you are declaring a contract.

<u>a</u>	<u>b</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>f</u>
5	5	K	Q	Q	J
2	2	J	6	6	6
		4	3	3	3
A	K	A	A	J	A
Q	4	10	4	4	10
		6	2	2	2

# Recognizing an Exit Card

- The exit card is a loser that will be won by an opponent.
- If the exit card is a small card, it may be difficult to force the correct opponent to win the trick.
- Other times you might know from the play which opponent will have to win the trick.
- In some cases it does not matter which opponent takes the trick.

# Consider a Situation Like This.

♠ Q J 9 6

♥ A K Q 2

♦ 5 3

♣ K J 7

Contract 6nt

♥ J

♠ A K 10

♥ 7 4 3

♦ A Q 8 4

♣ A Q 10

# Another Sure Exit Card.

Contract 4 ♥

♠ A 7 2

♥ K Q 9 2

♦ K J 5

♣ K 6 4

♠ 8

♠ 5 4 3

♥ A J 10 7 4

♦ A 10 4

♣ A 8

# Eliminate Defenders' Options

- When you have found a hand suitable for an end play:
  - There is a suit which is better led by an opponent.
  - You have a workable exit card.
- You must throw the opponent in the lead when any play he makes will help you.



# Putting the Opponent in the Lead at the Right Time

- Sometimes you can eliminate all the cards in the opponent's hand except the suit you want led.
- Sometimes, you can strip out your own hand, with trump in both your hand and dummy, so that the opponent is forced to lead the suit you want led, or give you a ruff and a discard.

# Eliminating Opponent's Options ex 1

♠ J

♠ Q 6 2  
 ♥ K 8 7 3  
 ♦ J 4  
 ♣ A Q 9 7

Contract 6 ♥

♠ K 10 9 7 6 5  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ 9 3  
 ♣ K 3

N	E	S	W
1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♥	p
3 ♥	p	3 ♠	p
4 ♣	p	4nt	p
5 ♥	p	6 ♥	

♠ A 3  
 ♥ A Q 10 9 5 2  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ J 3

# Eliminating Opponent's Options ex 2

♠8

♠ A 7 2

Contract 4 ♥

♥ K Q 9 2

♦ K J 5

♣ K 6 4

♠ K J 9 8 6

♥ 3

♦ 8 6 2

♣ 10 7 5 3

♠ 5 4 3

♥ A J 10 7 4

♦ A 10 4

♣ A 8

# Eliminating Opponent's Options ex 3

♦ K

♠ K 10 6 3

Contract 4 ♠

♥ 5 4 3

♦ A 6

♠ 9 5

♣ A J 5 3

♥ A 8 6

♦ K Q 10 9

♣ 10 7 4 2

♠ A Q 8 7

♥ K 9 2

♦ J 8

♣ K Q 9 6

# Eliminating Opponent's Options ex 4

♣ A

♠ A K 6

Contract 4 ♥

♥ A J 9 6

♦ 9 7 6

♠ Q 8 4

♣ J 8 6

♥ 4

♦ K 8 5

♣ A K Q 7 5 3

♠ J 7 3

♥ K Q 10 8 5 3

♦ A Q

♣ 9 4

# Eliminating Opponent's Options ex 5

♣ J

♠ J 9 8 4

Contract 6 ♠

♥ K J 5 4

♦ J 5 4

♠ 6 2

♣ Q 5

♥ 8 6

♦ 8 7 5 3

♣ J 10 9 7 4

♠ A K Q 10 7 5

♥ A 10 3

♦ A K

♣ A 6