Signaling Attitude On Defense



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Attitude Signals

- Attitude signals are the most common signals in bridge.
- Whenever partner leads an honor card, you are expected to give an attitude signal.
 - A low spot card is discouraging.
 - A high spot card is encouraging.
- But, partner must play the cards she was dealt and those cards may not always make a clear signal.

Partner Leads an Honor Card

- You don't like it but your holding is 9 8 7. you play the 7. What is partner to think?
- You like partner's lead, but the cards you were dealt are Q 3 2. You play the 3 (the highest card you can afford to play). What is partner to think?
- We come to the conclusion that:
 - We cannot always tell partner's attitude by looking at the card he plays.
 - We must look below the card and try to work out partner's attitude.

You Lead the K Against a Heart Contract

You	Dummy ♠ 4 3 2	Partner
▲ K Q 9 6	Declarer	♠ 7
	◆ 5	Partner
	Declarer	▲ 10 8 7
	♠ A J 5	

Is partner's 7 encouraging or discouraging?

You	Dummy A 8	Partner
▲ Κ 10 7 4	Declarer ♠ 5	▲ 3
		Partner
	Declarer	♠Q32
	▲ J 9 6 5	

Is partner's 3 encouraging or discouraging.

Guidelines

- Attitude signals are suggestions, not demands.
- If you can see all the cards below partner's spot card played to your lead, partner is obviously signaling discouragement.
- If there are two or more missing cards below partner's spot card, read partner's play as encouraging.
- If there is only one missing card below partner's spot card, it is ambiguous. Work it out.

The High-Low Echo

- The high-low echo is used in two situations.
 - To show a doubleton and an ability to ruff the third round of the suit.
 - To show an honor equal to the one led.

The Echo Showing a Doubleton

You ♠ A K 8 6 4 Dummy ♠ Q 9 5

Declarer ▲ J 10 7 Partner ▲ 3 Partner ▲ 3 2

Is partner's 3 encouraging?

The Echo Showing a Doubleton

	Dummy	
You	♦ 95	Partner
♠ A K 8 6 4	Declarer ♠ J 10 7	▲ 3
	∞ J 10 7	Partner
		♦ Q32

Is partner's 3 encouraging

The Lead of an Ace

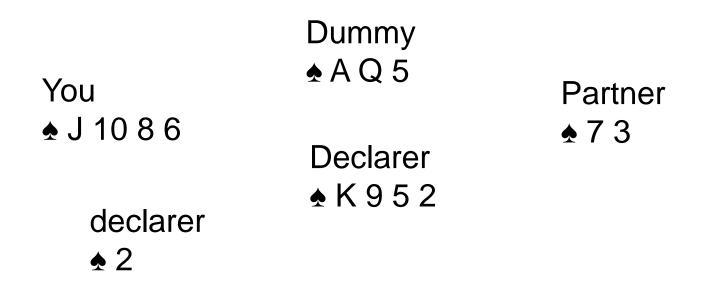
- The lead of an ace in a suit not bid by partner almost always shows the king of the suit.
- The exception is you have a singleton or doubleton and hope to get partner in to give you a ruff.

The Echo Can Show Encouragement without a Doubleton

	Dummy ♠ Q J 10 9	
You		Partner
♦ Α4	Declarer ♠ 7 6 2	≜ 8
	±102	Partner
		♠ K 8 5 3

In third seat, you see partner's ace and know it must be from a short suit. You start an echo to encourage partner.

When Not to Echo With a Doubleton



If you play the \bigstar 7, partner will think you have the king and be misled. Declarer clearly has the king.

Giving a False Signal

- Sometimes you might want partner to shift, even though you have an equal honor.
- Note that you cannot tell partner what suit to shift to. You can only suggest a shift.
- Partner must work out the suit, from her hand, what's in dummy and the bidding.

Example 1: Giving a False Signal

SouthWestNorthEast3♥pass4♥all pass

▲ Q J 10 3
♥ 9 5 3
♦ A Q J 10
♣ A Q

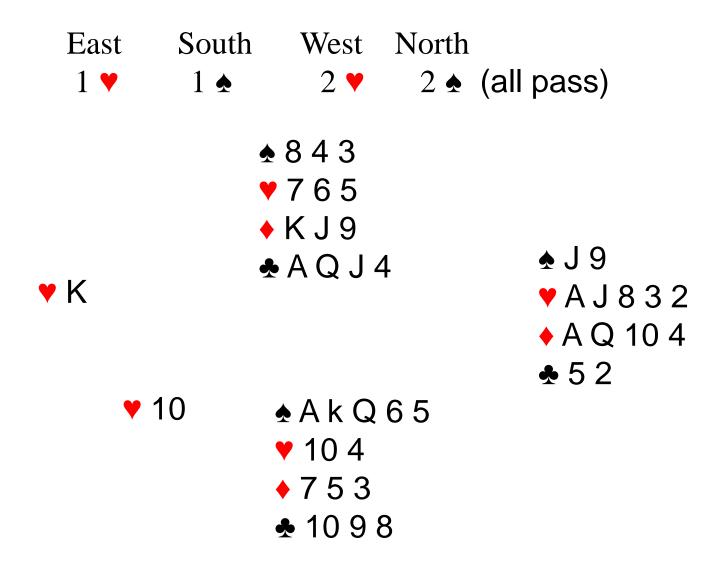
♦ 9 7 2
♥ A K
♦ 9 4 3
♥ 9 6 5 4 3

≜ 8

♠ A

▲ 8 6
♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 4
♦ K 8
♣ K 10

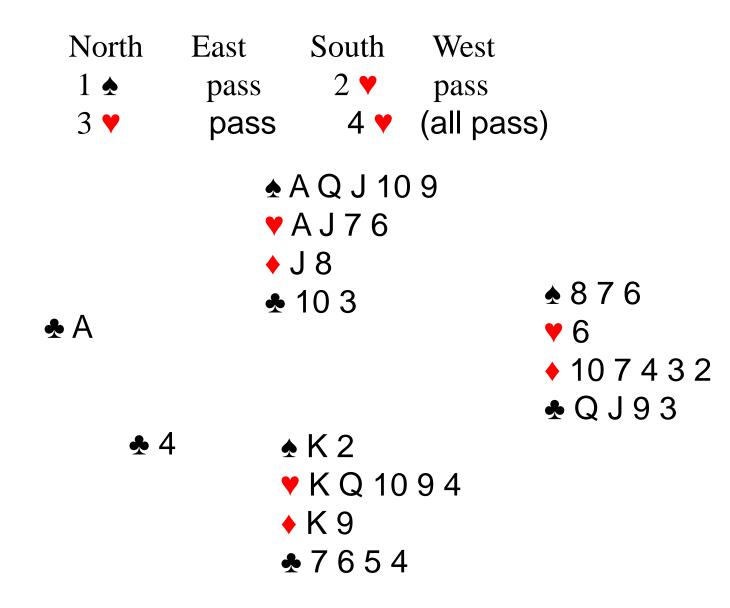
Example 2: Giving a False Signal



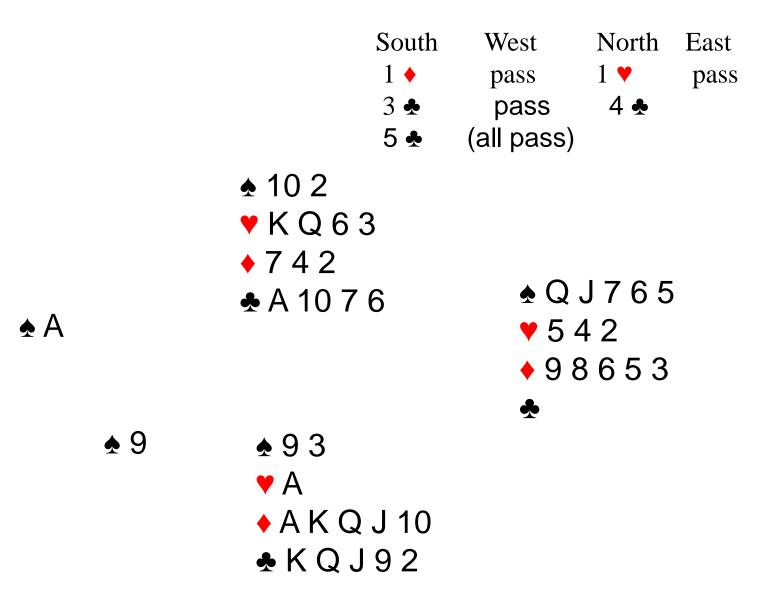
A Very Important Attitude Signal

- If partner leads an ace, the play of the queen (<u>always</u>) shows the jack or a singleton queen.
- This is a hard, firm rule, which under certain circumstances can be violated.
- I will illustrate how the rule might be violated in a moment.
- First, let's look at how the rule might be valuable in a defense.

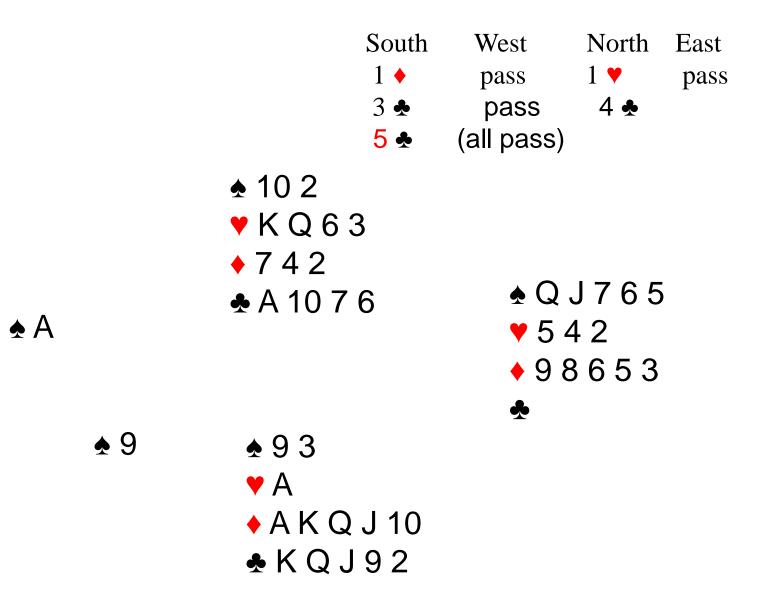
Example 1: Queen Shows the Jack



Example 2: Queen Shows the Jack



Example 2: Queen Shows the Jack



Be Careful to Avoid This Situation

▲ 10 6 4

♠ A K 9 7 3

▲Q5

▲ J 8 2

In This Situation, You Can Violate the Queen Shows the Jack Rule

▲ J 6 4

♠ A K 9 7 3

▲Q5

▲ 10 8 2