

## TIP OF THE WEEK: A QUICK PEEK AT A FEW SUIT COMBINATIONS

### BEGINNERS

A suit combination is the cards that declarer has in his hand and dummy in a single suit.

#### Guidelines for Playing Suit Combinations

- . Determine how many tricks are needed from the combination
- . Figure out opponents' total holding in the suit
- . Preserve tenace positions and controls in both hands.
- . Try to identify those configurations that favor one line over another.

#### A Few Fundamentals

Missing the King	Missing the Queen	Missing the Jack
With 11 cards missing the K, play for the drop	With 9 cards missing the Q, play for the drop	With 7 cards missing the J, play for the drop (instead of finessing the 10).
With 10 cards missing the K, finesse	With 8 cards missing the Q, finesse	

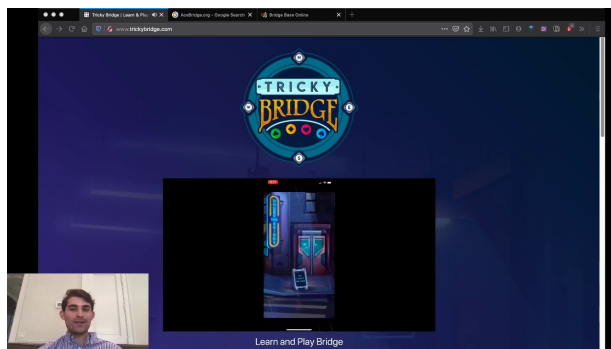
#### “Eight Ever, Nine Never”

“Eight Ever, Nine Never” is a recommendation for handling 8 and 9-card suit combinations, missing the Queen. Holding an 8-card combination, it is mathematically better to finesse for the Queen.

**AJ97**  
**KT52**

Holding a 9-card combination, it's better to cash the Ace and King and hope the Queen drops as a singleton or doubleton.

**AK987**  
**JT53**



<https://youtu.be/WVMFTGnu6xU>

**Play Toward Tenaces** → A **tenace** is 2 non-touching honors like K-J or A-Q.

When we have honors in both hands it's sometimes less obvious how we should play the suit. One suggestion is to keep the **tenace** intact by playing off winners in the other hand.

AJ64

K875 → Play the King then finesse the Jack

**Patty Tucker demonstrates the best way to play a Suit Combination, in the following video**

<https://m.facebook.com/bridgewithpatty/videos/1417269678467382/>

**How should you play AJ4 vs 97 when the opponents lead this suit? Larry Cohen to the rescue!**

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/suit-combination-video-ajx-opposite-9x>

### ADVANCED LEARNERS

**There are always exceptions in Bridge so Judgment must come into play instead of automatically playing familiar suit combinations. A few tips to keep in mind....**

The hand with more cards in a suit is more likely to have any honor in that suit.

The hand with more HCPs is more likely to have any honor.

The hand with more cards in the other suits is **less** likely to have any card in this suit.

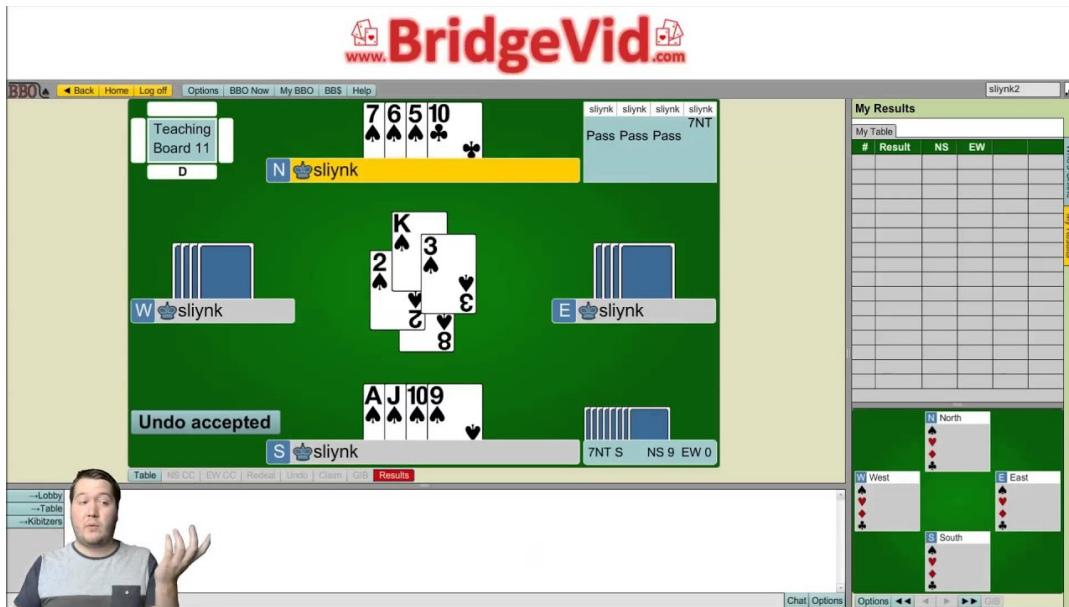
Principle of **Restricted Choice** is when an opponent holds either one or both of two equally important cards and plays one of them on a previous trick. The correct play is to **Finesse** for the remaining important card.

KT953

A842 → Play the **Ace**.

If one opponent drops the Queen or Jack, finesse the other opponent for the missing honor.

**On the next page, Peter Hollands discusses several things you should consider when playing a 9-card suit missing the Queen.**



“Nine Ever but not Always,” by Larry Cohen

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/9-ever-but-not-always>

According to Gavin Wolpert, ATx opposite Qxx is a Suit Combination that’s important to remember.



# EIGHT CARD FIT, MISSING THE QUEEN, AND A NINE CARD FIT MISSING THE JACK WITH GAVIN WOLPERT

Hand (North): A♠, K♠, A♥, 8♥, 7♥, 6♥, K♣, Q♣, 6♣, 4♦, 3♦, 2♦

Hand (South): 8♠, 7♠, K♥, Q♥, 9♥, 4♥, 2♥, 4♣, 3♣, A♦, K♦, Q♦

Hand (West): [Redacted]

Hand (East): J♠, 10♠, 6♠, 5♠, J♥, 10♥, 5♥, 3♥, 9♦, 10♦, 9♦, 8♦

Board: 4

Buttons: Claim, Undo

NS: 1 / 13 EW: 0

S: **7NT**

Board: 1

West: [Redacted]

North: [Redacted]

East: [Redacted]

South: [Redacted]

Hand (South): A♠, K♠, J♠, 10♠, 5♠, 4♠, 10♥, 9♥, 5♥, K♣, 3♣, 6♦, 5♦

Hand (North): [Redacted]

Hand (West): [Redacted]

Hand (East): [Redacted]

Buttons: Undo

Wolpert Bridge (Table 1)

1NT	1♠	1♥	1♦	1♣
2NT	2♠	2♥	2♦	2♣
3NT	3♠	3♥	3♦	3♣
4NT	4♠	4♥	4♦	4♣
5NT	5♠	5♥	5♦	5♣
6NT	6♠	6♥	6♦	6♣
7NT	7♠	7♥	7♦	7♣

Buttons: PASS, A