TIP OF THE WEEK: Avoid Discarding in the Dark!

When you can't follow suit, your play in a non-trump suit is a "discard". Choosing the correct discard isn't always easy, but often crucial.

- . Standard Discards:
 - A **High Card** asks partner to **lead** the **suit** if he wins a trick
 - A Low Card tells partner you have no interest in the suit
- . If you can't afford an encouraging discard, discourage in a different suit.
- . A **defender** with a **worthless hand,** needs to realize that his **discards** can be very helpful **to partner**. Every discard tells a story.

Tips

Sources: Susan Johnston Donna and Chris Compton

Discard With a Plan Before Declarer or Partner Start Running a Long Suit

- How many discards must you make?
- Identify the cards you must keep.
- Determine the order in which you will play your discards.

Usually keep one card in partner's source of tricks

Keep length parity with dummy if your highest card is higher than dummy's lowest card.

Discard from length rather than shortness. Try to save at least two cards in every suit so you don't expose your partner's holding.

Retain enough cards to **guard your** important **honor(s)**.

When you make two discards from the same suit, the first discard is Attitude and the second discard is Count.

If you have a choice of **negative discards** in two suits, make a discouraging discard in the **tempting suit partner might lead.**

Discard the **highest** in an **Honor sequence**, the one you would have led. (K from KQJT)

Your first discard in the suit <u>after you have already played once to the suit</u> Remember: HELO --> High = even Low = odd

- If you remain w/an **odd number** —-> Discard your lowest remaining card.
- If you remain with an **even number** of cards (4,6) —-> Discard your highest intermediate card you can safely afford.

Discard to help partner

7NT Contract KJ T6 743 AKJT43

7643 J82 QJT9 72

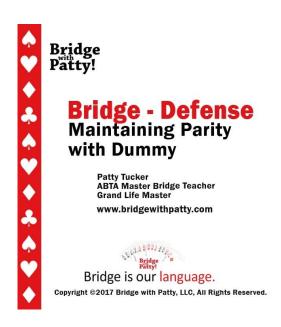
Partner's 9 of spades lead is won by the Declarer. Declarer then starts running the club suit. You have no discarding issues, but your partner might have. You discard the Queen of Diamonds on the third club. This tells partner that you have control of the suit from the Queen down.

If you'd like to read more on Discarding by Robert Todd, click on the following links.

https://bridge-tips.co.il/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Defensive-Agreements-Discards.pdf

https://www.advinbridge.com/this-week-in-bridge/277

In the following video, Patty Tucker demonstrates how to stop declarer from taking tricks with small cards.





https://youtu.be/joE8vlwCPs4

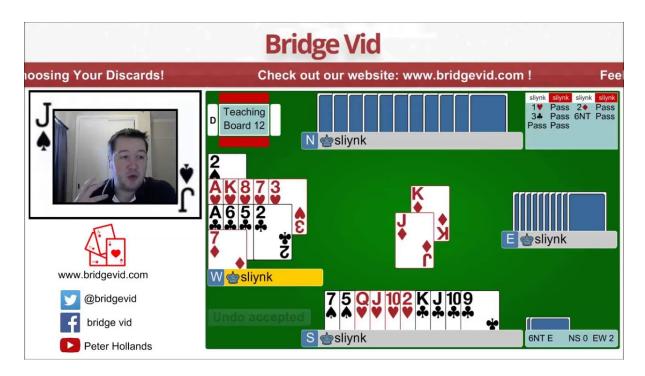
IMPROVING LEARNERS

How do you know when to discard cards in Declarer's long suit? Chris and Donna Compton focus on how Declarer is playing the hand.

"When declarer fails to play on dummy's short suit and pulls all of dummy's trumps, it is safe to discard from dummy's short suit because declarer does not have any losers. If declarer had any losers in dummy's short suit, then they would have trumped the losers before pulling all of dummy's trumps."

"When declarer trumps a loser or two in dummy and then pulls all of dummy's trumps, declarer no longer has a loser in that suit and it is safe to discard from that suit. If declarer has losers in the suit, they would have trumped those losers before pulling all of dummy's trumps."

"CHOOSE YOUR DISCARDS" WITH PETER HOLLANDS



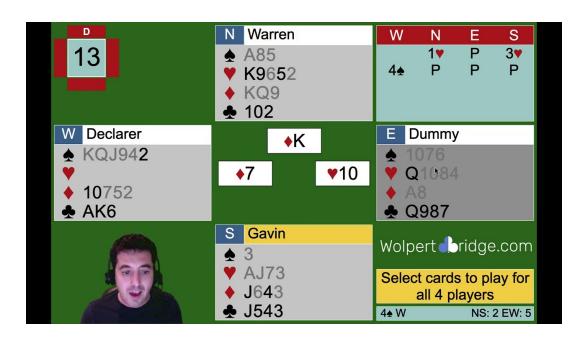
https://youtu.be/o-2N-9XXdSg

"KEEPING PARITY ON DEFENSE" WITH DONNA COMPTON



https://youtu.be/yz0LzGRioN8

"DISCARDING CORRECTLY WITH GAVIN WOLPERT





https://youtu.be/H3VgJCvOfFI

https://youtu.be/wOYrhkPLbnQ



https://youtu.be/uWmK8yTULCI