

BRIDGE PRACTICE PLAY

PLANNING IN SUIT CONTRACTS

Deal 1 – Dealer South

West leads the ♠ 10.

♠ 7 3	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N				
W E				
S				
♥ 7 5 3 2				
♦ 6 4 3				
♣ K 10 9 7				
♠ A K				
♥ A K Q J 10 8				
♦ A Q 5				
♣ A Q				

West	North	East	South
pass	2♦	pass	2♣
pass	3♥	pass	2♥
pass	5♣	pass	4NT
pass	6♦	pass	5NT
all pass		pass	6♥

West leads the ♠ 10 against your slam. How will you play the hand?

Deal 2 – Dealer South

West leads the ♥ J.

♠ A 9 6	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S
N				
W E				
S				
♥ 8 7 5				
♦ 7 5 2				
♣ A 8 3 2				
♠ K Q 7 4 2				
♥ A K Q				
♦ A K 6				
♣ K 4				

West	North	East	South
pass	2NT	pass	2♣
pass	4♣	pass	3♠
pass	4♠	pass	4♦
all pass		pass	6♠

Your slam will be easy if trumps break 3-2. What can be done against a 4-1 spade break?

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♠ 10 9 8 6 4	♠ 7 3	♠ Q J 5 2
♥ —	♥ 7 5 3 2	♥ 9 6 4
♦ K 10 8 2	♦ 6 4 3	♦ J 9 7
♣ J 8 3 2	♣ K 10 9 7	♣ 7 6 5

N		E
W	S	

♠ A K	♠ A K
♥ A K Q J 10 8	♥ A K Q J 10 8
♦ A Q 5	♦ A Q 5
♣ A Q	♣ A Q

West	North	East	South
			2♣
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	3♥	pass	4NT
pass	5♣	pass	5NT
pass	6♦	pass	6♥
all pass			

Once hearts were agreed as trumps, South was willing to play in a grand slam if North held both the minor-suit kings. In the methods being played, 5NT asked how many kings partner held. The 5♦

response revealed only one king in the North hand and the bidding came to a halt in 6♠. How do you play this contract when West leads the ♠10?

The loser position in the long-trump (South) hand is a simple one. You have two potential diamond losers and must somehow avoid one of them. One obvious line is to win the lead, draw trumps, cash the ♣A, reach dummy by overtaking the ♣Q and (unless the ♣J has fallen doubleton) take a diamond finesse. That line is a little over 50%. Is there anything better?

Indeed there is! You should win the spade lead and draw trumps in three rounds. You then cash your other spade winner, eliminating that suit. After cashing the ♣A, you overtake the ♣Q with the ♣K and survey this end position:

♠ 9	♠ —	♠ Q J
♥ —	♥ 7	♥ —
♦ K 10 8	♦ 6 4 3	♦ J 9 7
♣ J 8	♣ 10 9	♣ 7

N		E
W	S	

♠ —	♠ —
♥ J 10 8	♥ J 10 8
♦ A Q 5	♦ A Q 5
♣ —	♣ —

Instead of banking everything on a diamond finesse, you should now lead the ♣10 and throw the ♦5 from your hand. As the cards lie, West will win with the ♣J and will have to give you a trick with his return. A diamond will be into the ace-queen tenace and a club would revive dummy's ♣9, allowing you to discard the ♦Q. West cannot play a spade, of course, since this would concede a ruff-and-discard. You would ruff in the dummy and discard the ♦Q.

What if East had produced the ♣J on the third round? You would still discard a diamond. Since a black-suit return from East would give you the contract, he would have to switch to a diamond. You would then be able to finesse the

diamond queen.

You see how much better this line is, compared with simply taking the diamond finesse? You make the contract when East holds the ♦K or when West holds the ♣J. You get two chances instead of one. (Three instead of two, if you include the small one of the ♣J dropping doubleton!)

Excerpt taken from:

TEST YOUR BRIDGE TECHNIQUE:
Planning in Suit Contracts

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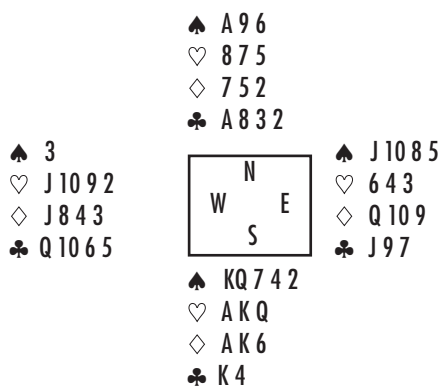


Duplication permitted for teaching purposes only.

BRIDGE PRACTICE PLAY

PLANNING IN SUIT CONTRACTS

Deal 2 - Dealer South



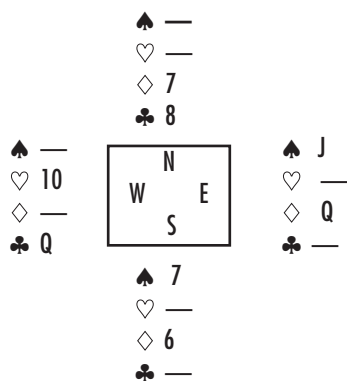
West	North	East	South
pass	2NT	pass	2♣
pass	4♣	pass	3♠
pass	4♠	pass	4♦
all pass		pass	6♠

Since there is an unavoidable diamond loser it may seem that you cannot survive a loser in the trump suit. Think again! If you can score your seven side-suit winners and three top trumps, you can bring your total to twelve tricks by scoring two of the low

trumps in your hand.

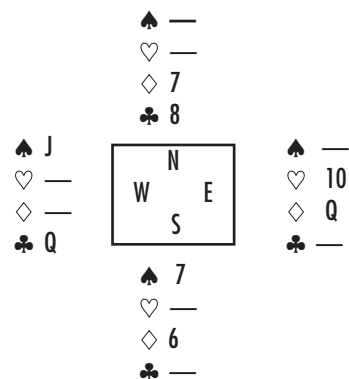
You win the heart lead and test the trumps by cashing the king and queen. If the suit breaks 3-2 you will draw the last trump and claim twelve tricks. When the cards lie as in the diagram West will show out on the second trump. You must now aim to ruff two clubs in your hand. Before doing this, it is essential to cash all your winners in the red suits. (Otherwise East might be able to discard in a red suit when you take the club ruffs.) You cash the red winners successfully and continue with the king and ace of clubs, followed by a club ruff.

Now you can see the benefit of leaving the ace of trumps as a potential entry to dummy. You cross to the trump ace and survey this end position:



If East was on lead he could draw your last trump and cash the ♦Q. No, the dummy is on lead! 'Play the last club, please,' you say. Whether or not East chooses to ruff with his master trump, your ♠7 will be promoted and you will make the small slam.

What if West had held four trumps? Could you ever make the slam then? It's just possible if he has exactly the right distribution. If West's shape was 4-3-2-4, you would reach this end position:



You lead dummy's last club and ruff with the ♠7. West has to follow suit and twelve tricks are in the bag. At Trick 13 West may enjoy the moment as he ruffs his partner's diamond winner!

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