

# SQUEEZING THE DEFENDERS

by  
Barbara Seagram

You can do it! We often hear about experts making squeeze plays! It is very satisfying when you successfully execute a squeeze play so it truly is worth the bother to learn this!

A hand always contains some cards that are **busy**, and some that are relatively worthless or **idle**. When a player must discard a **busy** card (because he has nothing else), he is said to be **squeezed**. A squeeze is a way that declarer can create extra tricks when he is desperate.

e.g. These are all different suits and hands that follow: You hold:

A52 The 5 and the 2 are "idle" cards as the Ace needs no bodyguards to protect it from being "eaten".

K52 The 2 is an "idle" card, you can pitch it anytime but the 5 must be retained to protect your King from being "eaten". The 5 is a "busy" card.

Q752 The 2 is an idle card. It is vital that you keep the other two cards as bodyguards for the Q. They are "busy" cards.

J852 These small cards are all "busy" cards. The J needs 3 bodyguards to protect it from being consumed by the Ace, King & Queen.

You get the idea. Now...over to Declarer!!!!

Supposing you are in a hopeless contract, (or seemingly hopeless); maybe all is not lost. Maybe one of your opponents has to hang on to all her bodyguards i.e. she only has "busy" cards in her hand. As you run your long suit, you force her to make a fatal discard.

e.g.

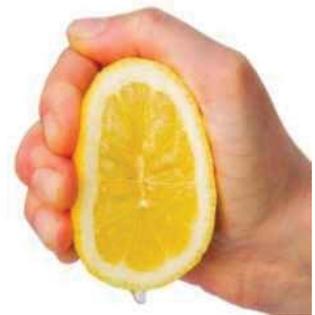
DUMMY

D AJ  
C K

D KQ  
C Ace

DECLARER

H Ace (you are leading this now)  
D 5  
C 4



You are declarer and you are down to a three card ending. When you lead the Heart Ace (this is known as the **squeeze card**), poor West has a huge dilemma. If he discards a Diamond, your Diamond Ace in dummy will fell the Diamond Q and your Diamond J will be high. If West pitches his Club Ace, dummy's Club K will now be high.

The Diamond J in dummy and the Club K in dummy are both classified as "threat cards".

It is important to note that in the above scenario, if East had been holding Diamonds KQ and Club Ace

Then this attempt to execute a squeeze would not have worked as the dummy (with the threat cards) would be forced to part with one of those threat cards prior to East having to decide what to pitch. i.e. If dummy pitched the Diamond J, then East could safely pitch his Diamond Q. If instead dummy pitched the Club K, then East could safely pitch his Club Ace.

Thus, this squeeze is classified as a "Positional Squeeze" as it only works against ONE opponent versus both opponents.

Don't get too hung up on terminology though, as you start out in the world of squeezes. When all else looks bleak, try running your long suit and just hope for something good to happen. Sometimes, at the very least, one of your opponents isn't paying enough attention and may simply discard the wrong card. This is called a pseudo squeeze!!

Let's have a look at a full hand: It is best if you lay out these cards at home and see what happens to poor West as declarer (south) plays each card.

	S	AQ74		
	H	J432		
	D	763		
	C	54		
S	J983		S	102
H	7		H	1098
D	AKQ8		D	1092
C	KQ102		C	98763
	S	K65		
	H	AKQ65		
	D	J54		
	C	AJ		

S	W	N	E
1H	Dbl	2H	P
4H			

West leads Diamond AKQ and switches to Club K. It looks to declarer as though the contract hinges on spades breaking 3-3. Odds on the missing 6 cards dividing 3-3 are about 35%, whereas the chances of them breaking 4-2 are about 48%. Declarer does know that West has to hold the Club Q as he led the Club K at trick # 4. Odds are high that he has also holds four Spades in view of his takeout double. What if he has to discard one of these precious cards, either a Spade or the Club Q. That would bring home the contract.

South won the Club Ace and drew trumps. Instead of playing Spades now to see if they behave, he led trumps, not just three rounds but **five** rounds.

Here is the 5 card ending:

	S	AQ74		
	H	---		
	D	---		
	C	4		
S	J983		S	102
H	---		H	---
D	---		D	---
C	Q		C	987
	S	K65		
	H	<b><u>5</u> led</b>		
	D	---		
	C	J		

At trick 9, south (declarer) leads the Heart 5 from his hand. This card is called the **squeeze card**. Poor West is up the creek now. Whatever he discards will help declarer. If he discards a Spade, declarer's Spade 4 in dummy will now be high. If he discards the Club Q, then declarer's Club J will be good.

Note that it was important to not first touch the Spade suit or entries would now be a problem. It is no good having the Spade 4 high in dummy if you have no way to get there.

Note also that even if it had been the East hand who held these cards, the Squeeze would still have worked. This hand is an example of a **SIMPLE** squeeze.

Nobody likes to feel helpless. It is a very frustrating feeling to be squeezed (at the bridge table anyway☺) so now it's your turn to make your opponents feel helpless.

# DEFENCE...THE TOUGHEST PART OF THE GAME

by Barbara Seagram

Dir:South S 8 6 3  
Vul:None H K 6 4  
D K Q 9 6 3  
C Q 4

S A K 7 5	N	S Q 9 2
H 8 5 2	W E	H A Q J 3
D J 8 7 2	S	D 10 5 4
C 10 2		C 9 7 5

S J 10 4  
H 10 9 7  
D A  
C A K J 8 6 3

South bid Clubs, North bid Diamonds. South becomes declarer in 3 Clubs.

West leads S Ace. What should East signal?

We have all heard that we must show our attitude when partner leads an Ace versus a suit contract. Most of the time, he will also have the King of that suit and if we have Q92, we should encourage him to keep leading the suit by playing the 9 (playing standard signalling). West would now continue by playing the S K and you now play the S 2. This is known as the high-low signal. West plays a third S and you win with the Q. Now what???

You, East, now find yourself on lead and wishing that you had partner on lead so he could lead a H through dummy's H King. Oops, we should have thought of this at trick # 1.

We have to think not just about trick one, two and three but about the hand as a total picture. Fast-forward the video and think about what happens when you find yourself on lead at trick # 4. Think ahead and this won't happen to you.

Look what happens if you hide from partner the fact that you have the S Q? Play the S 2 instead. West will now lead a H. If declarer plays the H 4 from dummy, you, East, will win with the H Jack. You will now lead back a small S to West who wins with the King. He leads another H which East wins with the H Q. East cashes his H Ace and S Q and declarer goes down 2 tricks. Without this defence, declarer would be able to discard his losing H's on Dummy's long D's and he would make his contract.

*This hand is from The Pocket Guide to Defensive Play by Barbara Seagram & David Bird. Available by emailing Barbara at [barbaraseagram@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraseagram@gmail.com) and available at Lee's Bridge Club. \$9.95 + tax = \$10.00.*



## A WRINKLE FOR KEY CARD BLACKWOOD

When you know that your side has 10 trumps between you. e.g. You open 1S with **AK7642** and partner responds using Jacoby 2NT which guarantees 4 or more of opener's major suit

1S - 2NT \* (Jacoby 2NT if you have agreed to play this)  
3S - 4NT 4 NT asks you how many Key Cards you have (the four aces and the King of Spades if you have agreed to play Key card Blackwood)

You, West, if you have 2 key cards but NO QUEEN OF TRUMPS, would normally bid 5H. BUT if you know that your side has 10 trumps, the chance of having no loser is very high. Thus, respond and pretend you DO OWN the Queen of trump and respond 5S instead of 5H as odds are high that the Queen will fall. This is a recommended little white lie.

## PUPPET STAYMAN by BARBARA SEAGRAM

Puppet Stayman is an excellent convention for allowing you to discover if the 1 NT opening bidder (or the 2 NT opener) happens to own a FIVE card major.

In order to use this convention, you do not wish to interfere with your regular Stayman or Transfer responses to a NT opener. First step is to agree with partner that you are playing Puppet Stayman.

1NT – 3C                      3C is Puppet Stayman asking partner if he/she has a 5 card major.  
If she does not have one, then opener must indicate if they have a 4 card major (1 or both)

### REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPONDER TO NT OPENER TO USE PUPPET STAYMAN:

At least one 3 card major & at least 10 or more HCP. Examples are as follows:

S K76	S K76	S KQ76
H A75	H 5	H QJ5
D 43	D AJ43	D 87
C QJ876	C Q8762	C Q876

Keep in mind that we always want to find an eight-card fit in a major as this is safer and therefore preferable to playing a hand in No Trump. Based on that premise, on # 1 hand, we would love to find a 5-3 fit in either S or H. On # 2: Ditto with S. On # 3, we could use regular Stayman and may find a 4-4 fit in S but what if opener had a 5 card H suit, we would miss the 5-3 fit in Hearts.

### How does opener respond to 3C?

3D                      No 5 card major but I do have at least one and maybe both 4 card majors  
3H                      I have 5 Hearts  
3S                      I have 5 Spades  
3NT                     I have no 4 card major and no 5 card major either

If auction proceeds as follows:

1NT -                    3C  
3D                      Responder now continues as follows:

3D shows that opener has at least one 4 card major. Responder does something kinky now because he wants the stronger hand to be on play. He now bids the 4 card suit that he does not have

3H                      says "I have four Spades"  
3S                      says "I have four Hearts"  
3NT                     I am not at all interested in the fact that you have at least one 4 card major  
4NT                     Invites opener to bid 6NT if he has a maximum  
4D                      Hey, I have BOTH majors over here, you (opener) pick a major suit and bid it.

1NT -                    3C  
3H or 3S

Responder's bids are as follows:

3NT                     I want to play this hand in 3NT  
4H or 4S                If this was a raise of opener's major, then it means that is where you wish to play it  
4NT                     Invites opener to bid 6NT if he has a maximum

*Puppet Stayman is so named because the responder to the NT opener is manipulating opener into becoming declarer*



## FACTS OF BRIDGE LIFE by EDDIE KANTAR

1. One doesn't lead the same against 3NT as against 6NT. Against 6NT, avoid leading away from an honour unless you have a sequence.

**S** K10763  
**H** J108  
**D** J5  
**C** Q92

Against 3NT, lead S 6. Against 6NT, lead the H Jack. If they have 33 HCP, guess how many partner has?

2. When partner bids two suits and you have an equal number of cards in each suit, take partner back to the first suit even if it means going to a higher level. Just do it! *Hand that follows is by Barbara.*

**S** A7642  
**H** J2  
**D** Q42  
**C** J2

You know she has at least 5 Hearts and may only have 4 Clubs so take her back to Hearts. This is called Simple preference and this will show 6-9 points and only 2 Hearts (or with three of them, you would have raised Hearts to start

Partner		You
1H	-	1S
2C	-	2H.

3. A direct raise of opener's second suit promises FOUR card support (in blood).

*You are responder with this hand.*

4. **S** 54  
**H** A105  
**D** A105  
**C** K10765

Partner	You
1S	2C
2H	?

Bid 2NT now showing 11-12 HCP. Don't even think of raising hearts with only 3 of them in this instance.