

BRIDGE TIPS by BARBARA & ALEX

1. You have this hand. Partner opens 1H. You respond 1S.

S Axxxx
H x
D xxx
C Qxxx

Opener now bids 2D. What do you now bid? Opponents pass throughout.

2. You have this hand. Partner opens 1H. You respond 1S.

S Axxxx
H Jx
D Jxx
C xxx

Opener now bids 2D. What do you now bid? Opponents pass throughout.

3. You have this hand. Partner opens 1H. You respond 1S.

S Axxxxx
H x
D xx
C Qxxx

Opener now bids 2D. What do you now bid? Opponents pass throughout.

1. As responder with 6-9 points, you are only allowed to bid once unless pushed by partner. A new suit by opener is a push but you are not forced to bid. You are forced to choose one of OPENER'S suits.

So, on this hand, you will pass as you have a strong preference for opener's second suit.

2. On this hand, you may think you prefer opener's second suit but she may have 5 Hearts and only 4 Diamonds. Thus you must return to opener's first suit since you know that your partnership has at least a 5-2 fit in Hearts and after all, it is a major which scores better. You bid 2H.

These bids are both called SIMPLE PREFERENCE and show 6-9 points only.

3. This hand is a total misfit and you hate both of partner's suits. If you are unable to find a 7 card fit in one of partner's suits, then you have permission to rebid your 6 card suit.

Bid 2S. This shows 6-9 points and a six card (or longer) Spade suit.

THE FORCING DEFENCE

Suppose the trump suit looks like this:

875

A432

6

KQJ109

South is declarer. Let's say the suit you see above is Spades and Spades are trumps.

West has 4 trumps. Suppose West is able to force south to ruff. If South's trump tricks are reduced to four, West still only has one trick, but if south can be forced to ruff twice, West will have one more trump than South. The extra trump will often score an extra trick. The key is to force declarer to ruff and ruff again. To achieve this, LEAD YOUR LONG SUIT. That is where declarer figures to be shortest.

With trump length, lead length. i.e. lead your longest **other** suit

You usually are going to try to get the LONG trump hand to ruff, not the short one. i.e. usually declarer's hand is the hand with more trump.

	S 875	
	D 62	
S A432		S 6
D KQJ93		D A8754
	S KQJ109	
	D 10	

Suppose west has led diamonds and forced South (Declarer) to ruff once. Spades are trump. Now both declarer and dummy are void in diamonds. Down to four trumps, south leads the S king. West must hold off on playing the ace until North (dummy) is out of trump. If West wins the S Ace earlier and leads another D, then DUMMY will get to trump. We only ever want declarer to ruff in her hand. There is NO benefit making the short hand (the hand with fewer trump i.e. dummy) ruff.

After S King wins, south leads another trump. Again West must hold off (until the round on which dummy is running out of trump) ...i.e. the ace must be taken when it draws the last trump in the dummy (the short trump hand).

South and West are now down to two trumps apiece:

	S 8	
	D ---	
S A4		S ---
D J93		D A75
	S J10	
	D ---	

If South now leads a third spade, West can win S Ace and continue diamonds, forcing out South's last trump. West is left with the only trump PLUS two more high diamonds. South's best play is now often to abandon leading trump...but in this case, West will now be able to ruff with S 4.

The forcing defence is most effective when you hold four trumps against declarer's five or 6 trumps.

Example hand: You will have to lay these out to fully understand this concept which is challenging.

	S 643	
	H QJ5	
	D 7632	
	C AKJ	
S 9852		S 7
H 4		H A8632
D AKQ8		D 10954
C 7432		C 1096
	S AKQJ10	
	H K1097	
	D J	
	C Q85	

S	N
1S	2D
2H	2S
4S	

or if playing 2/1, auction would go:

S	N
1S	1N
2H	3S
4S	

D Ace is best lead, not singleton. You do not want to ruff when you have four trump. You wish to FORCE declarer to ruff. East and West should continue leading Diamonds at every opportunity.

Play it out and you will see that declarer cannot make this. When East wins with H Ace, she should continue leading D 's and not try to give west a ruff in D 's. South cannot make this hand on this defence.

DEFENCE QUIZ

Question # 1

S N

1D 1H

1S 2D

2H 3D

All pass

Declarer is South in 3D.

West led a Club . Declarer trumped the second round of clubs. What is declarer's exact distribution?

Question # 2

North
S J2
H A2
D Q109854
C K62

East
S 1087542
H KJ103
D A6
C A

South North
1NT 3NT

West leads the C Jack. Declarer plays low from dummy and you win with the C Ace.
What will you now lead?

1. Declarer has only one C .

South has exactly 4 S 's. If he had 5 S 's , he would have opened one S. OR at least he would have later bid them twice if he had 5 of them. He thus has exactly four.

South now has exactly 8 cards leftover for D and H .

If he had 4 H 's, he would have raised North's H 's immediately. Thus, he only has 3 H 's. He must show secondary support by raising hearts later in case North has a 5 card H suit.

NOW, you know that declarer has a 5 card D suit. South is 4-3-5-1.

2.

You (East) have 12 HCP. Declarer and dummy have bid to 3 NT so they have approximately 25-26 HCP between them. That leaves 2-3 HCP as a possibility for partner (West) to have.

Can West have the S Q? Yes, she can but if that is all she has in S 's, it won't beat the contract. He already has shown up with the C Jack so she cannot have much more but she could have the H Queen. If she does, then things are looking up.

You should now lead the H 3. Here is the entire hand:

	North	
	S J2	
	H A2	
	D Q109854	
	C K62	
West		East
S 96		S 1087542
H Q6		H KJ103
D 732		D A6
C J109873		C A
	South	
	S AKQ	
	H 98754	
	D KJ	
	C Q54	

W leads the C J. When East wins the C Ace and leads back the H 3, W plays the H Q. If declarer ducks one round, W persists with leading Hearts.

Eventually E will win a trick with D Ace and cash two high Hearts.

EW will have scored 3 H tricks, D Ace and C Ace. Down one because you played detective and worked out what partner could have based on the Rule of 40.

Rule of 40: When you are about to make an opening lead, first count up the number of HCP that declarer and dummy ought to have, based on their bidding. Then add yours to that total and subtract total from the number 40. That is how many HCP your partner can have. This is very important information.

AND

If you are in third seat and your partner has led, use the Rule of 40 then also. Let's say NS gets to 4H. Let's say they have 24 HCP approximately plus 2 distribution points adding to 26 points. You are East and you have 12 HCP. Partner (West) leads the Club Ace. West is marked with only 4 HCP. You have just seen all 4 HCP. East, you must now defend accordingly during the hand, knowing that West has no points remaining in his hand.

OK, one more:

You are West and you have

S AQ84
H KJ62
D KJ
C 952

Auction has gone:

S	N
1N	3N

What will you lead, West?

How many points has East (partner) got?

We lead fourth best when we have a hope that partner has some HCP, hopefully in your suit so that you can develop your long suit. In above scenario, East has nothing. You, West, have 14 HCP. NS got to 3NT so they have approximately 26 HCP.

You must make a passive lead. Lead the Club 9. Declarer will win and lead a H from dummy. You will win with the H King. Lead another Club. Declarer will win and lead a Spade from dummy. You will win with the S Q and lead another Club. Give nothing away.

Remember the physician's creed: First, do no harm!

This same principle of passive defence applies when you are defending against a slam. It is usually right to not lead fourth best, underleading an honour, against a slam (e.g. K742) . This lead would often give declarer her 12th or 13th trick.

Preventing a Ruff

from Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand by Barbara Seagram & David Bird

Sometimes it is entirely obvious that the defenders are planning a ruff. Would you have stopped them on this deal?

	S J 7 5		
	H 8 4 3		
	D Q 7 5 2		
	C A K 6		
S 9 8 4		S A	
H 9 5		H A J 10 6 2	
D 10 9 6		D A J 4 3	
C J 10 5 3 2		C 9 8 4	
	S K Q 10 6 3 2		
	H K Q 7		
	D K 8		
	C Q 7		

West	North	East	South
		1H	1S
pass	2H	pass	4S
All pass			

North bids 2H to show a limit raise or better in spades and West leads the H 9 against your spade game. East wins with the H A and returns the H J, West following suit as you win in your hand. A count of your losers seems to reveal no apparent problem:

Losers: S 1 H 1 D 1 C 0 Total: 3

Not so fast! You know from the opening bid that East began with five hearts. If you simply play a trump at trick 3, East will win and give his partner a heart ruff. You will lose a diamond trick subsequently and that will be one down. What can you do about it?

You must play three rounds of clubs and discard the H Q, even though it is a winner. Only then do you play a trump. East wins and plays the H 10 but now you can ruff high and draw trumps. You can then claim the contract for the loss of one further trick in diamonds.

PLAN: Before drawing trumps, I will discard the H Q to avoid a heart ruff.

TAKING CHARGE

by **Eddie Kantar** www.kantarbridge.com

North
S. 2
H. AK10953
D. 1074
C. AQ8

A9875
8762
8
KJ10

KQJ10
QJ
AKQJ
643

South
S. 643
H. 4
D. 96532
C. 9752

Taking charge. Responding to a T.O Dbl.
Dir: North
Vul: Neither

West
S. A9875
H. 8762
D. 8
C. KJ10

East
S. KQJ10
H. QJ
D. AKQJ
C. 643

North East South West
1H Dbl. Pass 2S
3H 4S All Pass

Opening lead: HA

Bidding Commentary: As West, add an extra point for your five card major facing a takeout double. Your hand is now worth at least 9 points, enough to make a jump response to a takeout double (9-11). As East, don't talk yourself into counting anything for HQJ. Even so, you have 17 support points, enough to bid game directly.

Defensive Commentary As North begin with the AK of hearts.

Defensive Commentary #2: As South, ruff partner's HK at trick two and lead a club! No, you haven't gone mad. You do see those diamonds in dummy, don't you? It is vital to take club tricks before they go off on diamonds. Basically you have to hope partner has the CAQ. This is your last chance to do something meaningful so don't blow it! Switch to a club at trick three before the mice can get at partner's club tricks.

When the dummy has an imposing side suit with a strong trump fit, it is usually right for the defense to play an attacking game. This may mean trumping partner's trick with a worthless trump to lead a suit through declarer that partner cannot lead safely. Do it!

Third hand can should make the following opening lead inferences: When dummy tables and the AK of any side suit is not visible, third hand assumes that partner does not have both honors. The same inference, to a lesser extent, is available when the KQ of a side suit is not visible.