

Interfering with the Declarer

The Defensive Hold-Up Play

- I. When to Take Your Ace (or King)
 - Take your Ace when declarer plays last card in the suit
 - Partner gives you count signals to work that out
 - Using standard carding, low-high is odd, high-low is even
 - Signaling upside down, low-high is even, high-low is odd
 - By deduction, you work out declarer's count
 - You can use the same strategy for taking Kings
 - When would you take your trick on the following hands?

▪ ♠: KQJ98		
♠: 73	North West East South	♠: A42
♠: T65		

▪ ♠: KQJ98		
♠: A42	North West East South	♠: 763
♠: T5		

▪ ♠: AQJ92		
♠: 86	North West East South	♠: K743
♠: T5		

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Attacking Entries

- II. Consider if dummy does have a side entry
- The priority becomes knocking out the side entry
 - Then, use count signals when declarer attacks suit
 - How do you attack the side entry on the following hands?
 - The lead to 3NT is JH. You take the Ace.

	▪ ♠: A5 ♥: 742 ♦: J54 ♣: KQJT9	
♠: T64 ♥: JT98 ♦: 963 ♣: 862	North West East South	♠: KQ93 ♥: A5 ♦: T872 ♣: A75
▪ ♠: J872 ♥: KQ63 ♦: AKQ ♣: 43		

You are East. How do you attack the entry?

	▪ ♠: A7	
♠: T83	North West East South	♠: KJ42
▪ ♠: Q965		

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♠: K73		
♠: T984	North West East South	♠: A62
♠: QJ5		

♠: KQ2		
♠: 875	North West East South	♠: AJT4
♠: 963		

Watching Your Discards

III. Considerations

- Keeping parity with the dummy
- Consider what you know about partner's and declarer's count
- How many tricks does declarer get with or without West's discards

▪ ♠: AKQ32		
♠: 95	North West East South	♠: JT74
♠: 86		

▪ ♠: AK73		
♠: J9	North West East South	♠: T642
♠: Q85		

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♠: KQ4		
♠: 62	North West East South	♠: JT953
♠: A87		

IV. Defending Against Finesses

- Count signals can help partner who is dealing with a finesse
- If count doesn't matter, you can randomize your count signals.
- Do count signals matter on these hands?

♠: KQJ7		
♠: A943	North West East South	♠: T62
♠: 85		

♠: AQJ2		
♠: T87	North West East South	♠: K63
♠: 954		

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▪ ♠: AJT94		
♠: 85	North West East South	♠:KQ
♠: 7632		

▪ ♠: KJ		
♠: AT74	North West East South	♠:Q9532
♠: 86		

▪ ♠: KQ2		
♠: T74	North West East South	♠:AJ95
♠: 863		

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V. Defending Against Suit Contracts

- Think about what the declarer's plan might be
- Then, think about what you can do to thwart the plan
- Consider this 2S contract with the QH lead

	▪ ♠: J73 ♥: 52 ♦: K972 ♣: K643	
♠: K95 ♥: QJT8 ♦: Q86 ♣: J97	North West East South	♠: 64 ♥: AK6 ♦: JT53 ♣: AT82
♠: AQT82 ♥: 9743 ♦: A4 ♣: Q5		