

Consider this deal:

	N				
	AQJ6				
	T74				
	K84				
	J72				
W		E	E	S	W
754		3	Pass	1S	Pass
K2		J98653	Pass	4S	All Pass
AT653		J97		OL: 7S	Why?
K95		Q83			
	S				
	KT982				
	AQ				
	Q2				
	AT64				

After the opening lead, declarer draws trumps and tries a low diamond toward the king. West plays low (2nd hand low, passive) and the king wins. Declarer tries the heart finesse. West returns a heart, not wanting to break another suit (passive). Declarer now exits with the diamond queen to West. West then returns a diamond (passive) which declarer ruffs. Now declarer must open up clubs and no matter how he works on clubs, he will lose two tricks if the defense is on its toes (low from West if declarer leads low from hand or East cover the jack if led from dummy).

Definitions:

- **Passive defense is defending so that one does not give up a trick that is not already declarer's.**
- **Active defense is attacking a suit which may yield a trick or tricks that threaten to go away if not attacked.**

Circumstances calling for a passive defense:

- When there is probably no long side suit against you
- When you have key cards in their suits
- When declarer is very strong and dummy is very weak (or vice versa)
- When they have bid tentatively or perhaps have overbid, and they may not have all their tricks
- When you lack an attractive suit at NT
- When defending against a grand slam or 6NT.

Active defense is often best when

- Opponents have shown extra values
- One or more of the opponents have indicated a long suit on which losers can be discarded.
- Opponents have bid a small suit slam
- You know honors are sitting well and suits are breaking well for the opponents

Consider this deal:

		N		
		KJ3		
		63		
		AQJ72		
		QT2		
W			E	Auction
T95			Q864	1H - 2D
KJ942			7	2N - 3N
85			K963	OL: TS Why?
A86			J953	
		S		
		A72		
		AQT85		
		T4		
		K74		

West rejects hearts and diamonds as an opening lead. He chooses the T of spades over the 6 of clubs because spades have more to gain and clubs have more to lose. Declarer wins the Ace of spades in hand and runs the Ten of diamonds which East lets win (good defense) and takes the second diamond with the king. East returns the 7 of hearts because he knows that partner is sitting behind declarer with 5 hearts. West wins the king and returns the 9 of spades. Declarer tries the Jack but East wins the Queen and returns a spade (passive). Now declarer can come to at most 8 tricks.

How about this deal?

		N		
		KQ32		
		53		
		65		
		AKQJT		
You			Contract 4S	Declarer's hand:
54				AJ765
AKQ4				JT
KJ94				Q83
654				987

Tricks 1 and 2: AK of hearts. Partner plays high low (standard carding).
 Do you defend passively or actively? Why?
 If passively, what do you lead at trick three?
 If actively, what do you lead at trick three?

Another deal

		N		
		A965	South's hand	
		A64	QJ842	
		J72	J73	
		T54	K6	
W			AJ3	
73				
KQT5	1S – 2S			
A854				
Q72				

You lead the king of hearts and partner plays the 2 (standard carding) and declarer plays the 3.

Do you defend passively or actively? Why?

If actively, what do you lead at trick two?

If passively, what do you lead at trick two?

Same hand?

		N		
		A965		
		A64		
		J72	1S P 2S All pass	South's hand
		T54		QJ842
W			OL KH	732
73				KQT3
KQT5			T1: KH, 4H, 9H, 2H (std)	A3
A854			Active or passive?	
Q72			T2?	

Two more for the road. The same deal twice??

N
AK652
QT74
J3
K2

QJ97
8
KT865
Q85

1S – 2H – 4H
OL: 6D
T1-T2: AD, KD
Declarer plays the Q of D
Active or passive?
T3: ?

South's hand
84
AKJ96
Q7
J973

N
AKQT5
QT74
J3
K2

J76
83
KT865
Q85

1S – 2H – 4H
OL: 6D
T1-T2: AD, KD
Declarer plays the Q of D
Active or passive?
T3: ?

South's hand
84
AKJ96
Q7
T973