

Avoidance Play

A play made by declarer to ensure a particular defender does not gain the lead:

<p>♠6 4 3 ♥A J 2 ♦K T 4 ♣7 6 5 4</p> <p>♠K T 8 7 2 ♥9 5 ♦8 6 5 ♣J 3 2</p>	<p>♠A 9 ♥Q T 8 6 3 ♦Q J 7 3 2 ♣K</p>
<p>♠Q J 5 ♥K 7 4 ♦A 9 ♣A Q T 9 8</p>	

South plays in 3NT. On a spade lead, south wins the 3rd round and enters dummy with a diamond and leads a low club. When the king appears south makes the avoidance play of ducking, thereby preventing West from gaining the lead and cashing his spades.

Note that east can defeat the contract by throwing his king of clubs on the 3rd round of spades, thereby promoting the Jack of clubs as an entry.

Trump Coup

A trump coup is a means of drawing an opponent's trumps when those trumps are finessable except for the fact that declarer does not have trumps in either dummy or his hand necessary to take the finesse. So he must arrange the play such that the defender will be forced to trump in front of the tenace, and thereby effect the finesse. In the auction below 4♦ is Namyats, showing a good 4♣ opener - 4NT is RKCB for Spades, 5♦ shows 1 Key Card.

<p>♠AQJ9862 ♥54 ♦--- ♣KQJ3</p>	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♦!</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4NT!</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5♦!</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">XX</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		4♦!	P	4NT!	P	5♦!	X	6♣	X	P	P	XX	<p>♠KT54 ♥KJT ♦532 ♣954</p>
W	N	E	S															
	4♦!	P	4NT!															
P	5♦!	X	6♣															
X	P	P	XX															
<p>♠7 ♥Q763 ♦KJT98 ♣862</p>																		
<p>♠3 ♥A982 ♦AQ764 ♣AT7</p>																		

On the 2♦ lead, a heart is discarded from dummy. South then ruffs a Diamond in dummy and plays the ♠Ace, getting the bad news. To run the trump coup dummy's spades must be shortened to the same length as West. So it goes Heart to the Ace, Heart ruff, club to the Ten, Heart ruff, King of clubs, club to the Ace. We are now at, with the lead in the South hand:

	♠QJ9	
	♥---	
	♦---	
	♣Q	
♠KT5		♠---
♥---		♥Q
♦5		♦JT9
♣---		♣---
	♠---	
	♥9	
	♦Q76	
	♣--	

South cashes the ♦Queen discarding the ♣Queen from dummy. Now any card from South and West gets 1 trump trick only.

Bath Coup

A ducking play by declarer to prevent the establishment of the defenders suit:

	♠Q32	
	♥A42	
	♦8	
	♣KQJ642	
♠K54		♠9876
♥97		♥QJ86
♦KQT976		♦543
♣53		♣A8
	♠AJT	
	♥KT53	
	♦AJ2	
	♣T97	

South plays in 3NT on the ♦King lead. South must play low ([Bath Coup](#)) to prevent the establishment of the suit. If south wins the ace, when east gains the lead with the ♣Ace, a diamond through the Jx will spell defeat.

Backward Finesse

♥A 7 5

♥Q 8 4 ♥T 6 3

♥K J 9 2

South can pick up the heart suit for no losers by a backward finesse. He leads the Jack which west must cover, and wins the Ace. He can now finesse East for the 10 of hearts.

The only time to play the suit this way is when we are close to 100% certain that west must have the queen.

Coup-en-passant

Playing in a spade contract, with the lead in the North hand, South needs 2 of the last 3 tricks in this position:

	♠Q	
	♥--	
	♦A	
	♣4	
♠KT		♠--
♥A		♥K
♦--		♦2
♣--		♣A
	♠A	
	♥3	
	♦--	
	♣3	

South ruffs the ♦Ace with the ♠Ace and leads the ♥3. Whether West ruffs or not, south will score the ♠Queen en-passant.

Coup without a name (Scissors Coup)

A loser on loser play designed to prevent a particular opponent from gaining an entry:

		<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
♠AKJ5 ♥Q82 ♦A987 ♣98		2NT	X	5♣	5♥
		P	P	P	
		(2NT=5/5 Minors)			
♠Q ♥A3 ♦KQT64 ♣AJT73					
	♠8732 ♥4 ♦J52 ♣KQ652				
	♠T964 ♥KJT9765 ♦3 ♣4				

West leads the ♠Queen. South can see a spade ruff looming so he plays the ♦Ace and ♦7. When East, napping, plays the ♦5 south discards the ♣4 thereby cutting the defenders communication and preventing the ruff. If East inserts the ♦J on the 2nd round, the defense gets their ruff.

The play "cuts" the defenders communication, and is therefore called the "Scissors Coup".

Devils Coup

An end position where the defenders "sure" trump tricks disappears. The ending must be:

	♠AT	
	♥2	
	♣--	
♠J43 ♥-- ♣--		♠Q2 ♥-- ♣T
	♠K9	
	♥--	
	♣2	

With spades trumps and the lead in the South hand, declarer leads the ♣2 and the defence is helpless. If West ruffs low, dummy over ruffs and claims. If West ruffs high, dummy overruffs and a trump finesse wins the last 2 tricks.

Endplay

When a defender is placed on lead (**Thrown In**) at a point in time during the play when anything he is able to return will create an extra trick for declarer, the defender is said to be End Played. This normally happens towards the end of the play of the hand, but can happen much earlier, and may on occasion happen more than once on the same hand:

	W	N	E	S
♠KJ543				1♠
♥876	X	2♠	P	4♠
♦Q2	(all pass)			
♣T82				
♠2		♠Q6		
♥K943		♥JT2		
♦KJ863		♦T975		
♣KQ5		♣7643		
♠AT987				
♥AQ5				
♦A4				
♣AJ9				

West leads the ♠2. Declarer draws a 2nd round of trumps and runs the ♠10 to West's ♠Queen who is now end played. Forced to give up a trick on the return, West selects a heart. Dummy wins the ♥Queen, heart to the ♥Ace, and exit a heart to East's ♥Jack. Whichever minor East plays, South wins the Ace and exits that minor End playing West, gaining yet another trick. So Declarer's 5 losers have been reduced to 3, because of 2 Endplays.

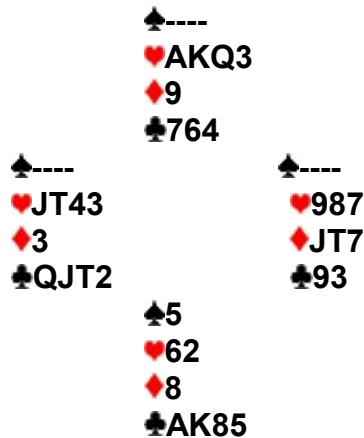
Rectify the Count

When executing a squeeze it is a necessary condition to have exactly 1 loser remaining (for most squeezes). To get to this position it is frequently necessary to lose 1 or more tricks and "Rectify The Count":

	W	N	E	S
♠QJ2	P	1♥	3♦	6NT
♥AKQ5	(all pass)			
♦954				
♣764				
♠983		♠T7		
♥JT43		♥987		
♦Q3		♦KJT762		
♣QJT2		♣93		
♠AK654				
♥62				
♦A8				
♣AK85				

West leads the ♦Queen which East overtakes. South has 11 top tricks (5 Spades, 3 Hearts, 1 Diamond & 2 Clubs). A 12th trick in Hearts is possible if they are 3-3 or, if West has 4 Hearts and 4 Clubs, a squeeze will work. In order to run

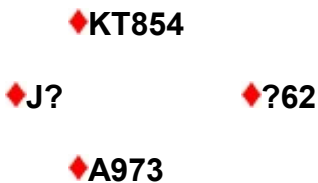
the squeeze South must duck the first diamond and "Rectify the Count". South wins the continuation and runs the Spades, on the last Spade West must unguard either the Heart or the Club. Note that if South had won the first Diamond and run the Spades we would reach this position:



When South cashes the last good Spade, West can discard a diamond and the squeeze fails. So we can see that "Rectifying the Count" is necessary so that when the final squeeze card is played, the hand with the 2 stoppers has no free discard to make.

Restricted Choice

A guide to the play of the cards which is, roughly stated, "When a defender plays one of two equal cards you assume he had no choice of which one to play, rather than had a choice which he exercised in a particular manner". A common example:



You lead the ♦3 from hand and West produces the ♦Jack which you win with the ♦King. On the next round do you finesse the ♦9 or do you play for the drop?

Restricted Choice says you finesse, that West was forced to play the ♦Jack, not that he had a choice of the ♦Queen or ♦Jack and chose to play the ♦Jack.

It may seem that singleton Jack (1 division) has the same probability as doubleton Queen-Jack (1 division). But that is not so.

The number of different hands West can have with a singleton Jack is the number ways West can have 12 cards from the 25 other cards E/W have, which is expressed as:

$$12 C 25 = 25! / (12! \times 13!) = 5,200,300$$

The number of different hands West can have with doubleton QJ is the number of ways West can have 11 cards from the 24 other cards E/W have, which is expressed as:

$${}_{11}C_{24} = \frac{24!}{(11! \times 13!)} = 2,496.144$$

The ratio of Singleton Jack to Doubleton QJ is almost exactly 2/1. That is, the finesse on the 2nd round, is a 2-1 favorite to win.

Moysian Fit

A Moysian Fit is a 4-3 trump fit. The Play of the hand with a Moysian Fit quite frequently requires particular care in maintaining control of the trump suit, as they most frequently divide 4-2:

	♠J54	
	♥AT2	
	♦K73	
	♣K862	
♠AKQ73		♠T98
♥9763		♥54
♦T8		♦9654
♣93		♣JT75
	♠62	
	♥KQJ8	
	♦AQJ2	
	♣AQ4	

South gets to an excellent 4♥ contract as both 3NT, 5♣ and 5♦ don't make. West starts with 3 top spades and South must discard on the third spade. If South ruffs he will lose control of the trump suit and go 1 down.

Pin

To lead a card which smothers one defenders card and gains a trick:

a) By enabling a finesse

♦J642
♦T8 ♦Q53
♦AK97

In this position South leads the ♦Ace. Noting the fall of the ♦8 from West, the North hand is entered in another suit and the ♦Jack is led, Pinning West's ♦10, and enabling a finesse of East's ♦Queen.

b) By removing a loser

♠543
♠A87 ♠Q
♠KJT962

South with no entries to the North hand, must play this combination. As a singleton Ace or any 2-2 break will produce 2 losers no matter how the suit is played, South leads the King, pinning the Queen, as the only hope of losing just 1 trick.

Dummy Reversal

A technique for playing suit contracts in which we take ruffs in the long hand, usually declarers hand, and make the dummy high, and in the process gain a trick. Take this example, in which declarers situation looks hopeless:

♠KT9
♥874
♦A543
♣A65
♠32 ♠754
♥AK97 ♥QJT
♦876 ♦KQJ92
♣T974 ♣J2
♠AQJ86
♥632
♦T
♣KQ83

Against South's 4♣ contract the defense cashes 3 hearts and shifts to a diamond. It appears as if South must lose a club. But the dummy reversal

creates an extra trick. South wins the diamond and ruffs a diamond, trump to dummy, ruff a diamond, club to dummy, ruff the last diamond with the ♠Ace, trump to dummy, draw trump and take the last 2 tricks in clubs. Declarer's 10 tricks are, ♦Ace, 3 ruffs, ♠K, ♠T, ♠9, and 3 clubs.

Elimination Play

The removal of the defenders safe exit cards, prior to placing them on lead.

♠K8432

♥Q75

♦83

♣876

♠AQJ9

♥AK82

♦Q2

♣AQ9

Against South's 4♠ contract the defense cashes then ♦Ace and ♦King and exits a trump. South draws the last trump and Eliminates the hearts by playing the ♥Queen, ♥Ace and ♥King and ruffs the ♥8 in dummy when the suit breaks 4-2. Now a low club to the 9 assures the contract.

False Card

A defensive or offensive maneuver of playing a card which one would not normally play in order to mislead declarer/defender in the hopes of defeating the contract or gaining an additional trick. Many books have been written on this topic.

Some false cards are mandatory plays in a suit:

♦J93

♦752

♦QT

♦AK864

In this layout South plays the ♦Ace. East must false card with the ♦Queen to stand any chance of making a trick. If South plays this as a true card he will play West for ♦T752 and finesse the ♦9 on the next round.

♦AQ95

♦2

♦KT83

♦J764

South leads low the ♦Queen, and East must play the ♦8. South may decide that East started with doubleton 10-8 and return to hand in another suit and lead the ♦Jack, creating an extra trick for East.

Some dramatic results can occur when a trick is won with an unnecessarily high card:

	♠KJT52	
	♥54	
	♦QJ752	
	♣K7	
♠842		♠AQ6
♥J876		♥KT932
♦T9		♦6
♣QJT9		♣432
	♠97	
	♥AQ	
	♦AK843	
	♣A865	

South plays in 5♦ on the ♣Queen lead. Trumps are drawn and a low spade goes to the ♠J. If West timidly wins the ♠Queen and returns a heart, South will be forced to finesse. But East wins the ♠Ace! Now South will reject the heart finesse and may take another spade finesse. This loses to the ♠Queen and East can cash the ♥King for the setting trick!

Declarer may also gain from a false card:

	♠532	
	♥J76	
	♦QJT954	
	♣A	
♠K8764		♠JT
♥KQ3		♥A9854
♦K2		♦63
♣872		♣6543
	♠AQ5	
	♥T2	
	♦A87	
	♣KQJT9	

West leads the ♣6 in South's 3NT contract. East plays the ♠10 and south wins the ♠Ace !!!! A club to dummy and a diamond finesse loses to West's ♦King. So West plays a low spade to his partners known ♠QJ !!!! Had declarer not won the first trick with the ♠Ace, west, staring at all those diamond tricks in dummy would likely switch to the ♥King.