

## MORE HIDDEN PLAYS

Q 7  
Q 10 8 7 3  
A Q 6 4  
4 2

A 6 4  
A K J 9 4  
K 5 2  
A Q

You get to six hearts, and West leads a diamond. You have 11 top tricks. Five hearts, three diamonds, spade ruff in dummy and two black aces. Where is your 12th trick coming from. You see two possibilities, diamonds 3/3, club finesse. Which do you try?

Before you try these, there is one more play that you can try. If West has the king of spades, you can get an extra trick by leading towards the queen in the dummy. If he takes the trick, you can cash the queen. Pitch a club on the ace and trump a club in dummy. Very fancy. Which one should you try. Well, actually you can try them all. Pull trump They split 2/1. Now try the diamonds. Ending in your hand. If they split 3/3, you have 12 tricks. Suppose they don't split. Now you lead a spade to the queen. If West wins, you proceed as above. If East wins the king, you can go back and take the club finesse. All together you have given yourself about an 80% chance of making the contract. The important thing is to take your chances in the proper order. If you try the club before the spade, and it loses, you can no longer try the spade. If you try the spade before the diamond, and it loses to East, and East plays a club, you do not know whether to take the finesse, or play for the diamonds to break.

Always look for these hidden plays.

A 6 2  
8 5 3  
A 9 6 4  
A J 10

8 7 5 4  
A K J 7 4  
5  
K Q 5

You are in 4 hearts, and West leads the Queen of Diamonds.

Count your winners. Barring a weird split, you have 4 hearts, one spade, one diamond, and three clubs, That leaves you a trick short. Well, spades might break 3/3; or the queen of hearts might be in the East hand, and a finesse will win, or the queen might drop. You might do even better. Win the ace of diamonds, trump a diamond in your hand.

Yes, I know that trumping in the long hand does not produce extra tricks. But wait. What if the long hand could become the short hand. Cash the ace and king of hearts. The queen did not come down, but it is the only heart out. A three, two split is about 60%, better than the finesse, and there is a chance that the queen will fall.

Now, play the king of clubs to the ace, and trump a diamond, play the 10 of clubs to the queen, and trump a diamond. If neither player can trump, one of your winners, or overtrump you, you have five hearts, remember, you have taken the ace and king, and trumped three times in your hand. You still have the 8 of hearts in dummy. Cash your last club. If no one trumps, you have five hearts, three clubs, the ace of diamonds and the ace of spades is still in the dummy. If either player trumps any one of your cards, then the 8 of hearts in the dummy will be the only one out, and you can trump a spade in dummy for the tenth trick.

This play, making the hand with the most trump become the shorter trump suit is called a Dummy Reversal, and seems like an “advanced play,” but it should be a standard play in your arsenal.