

## DESSERT

Newer players find it hard to figure out endplays, and simply cannot picture squeeze plays at all. They also find it hard to count the opponents' hands. You do not really have to understand these plays, in order to make them work. All that you really have to understand is DESSERT.

When our kids were little, the rule in our house is that you had to earn your dessert by cleaning your plate. Dessert comes last, and a good dessert is worth the wait. Carry this idea over to bridge, and look at these hands from recent columns in the Richmond paper.

You open 1 diamond, LHO bids two clubs, partner bids 3 clubs - **limit raise or better** - and you lose your mind and bid five diamonds. Partner puts down the dummy, and you wonder why you were not in three no trump, since you have nine top tricks, ten if they lead spades.

9 7 5 4	LHO leads the King of clubs, and things look very bleak.
K	You have six diamond tricks, two heart tricks and the Ace
A 9 7 5 4	of clubs. You can go to dummy, and lead towards the King
A 7 3	of spades, but, because of the overcall, the chance that this
	play will work is minimal. What can you do about it?
K 5	
A 6 2	Save the king of spades for dessert. Clean your plate,
K Q J 10 6 2	and best still, make your LHO serve dessert to you.
10 9	

Win the ace of clubs. Good choice. Play a heart to the King, come. Back to your hand with a diamond - trump split 1/1 - play the Ace of hearts,, pitching a club and trump a heart in the dummy.. **Strip and eliminate.** This is the position.

<p>9 7 5 4 — A 9 7 3</p> <p>K 6 — Q J 10 6 2 10</p>	<p>Now all that you have to do is find LHO with both the queen and jack of clubs, not too much to ask for, considering the overcall. Your last morsel before dessert is to play a club to the ten. West has to win, and he is fixed. If he plays spades, you get a spade trick, and if he plays anything else, you get a ruff and a sluff, making five. By saving the spade play for dessert, after you had cleaned your plate of the hearts and the extra club in dummy, you made your opponent serve you dessert. Now, having successfully executed a strip and eliminate play, you can get on the scale with confidence, knowing that you have lost the weight of your decision to bid five diamonds instead of three no trump.</p>
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The opponents are silent, and using all of the clever bids in your arsenal, you get to six no trump. The dummy comes down, and you are delighted to be in this contract instead six spades, because in matchpoints that extra ten points is worth a few extra matchpoints. RHO takes the ace of diamonds and returns a diamond, you win. Here are the hands.

<p>A K 10 8 6 5 3 A J Q J 7 5</p> <p>Q 2 K J 6 3 K Q 3 2 A K 4</p>	<p>You start to claim. After all, you have seven spade tricks, two hearts, two diamonds, and four clubs, fifteen of the last twelve tricks. But you decide to save the spades for dessert.</p> <p>You win the diamond, pitching a spade from dummy, play a heart to the dummy, play the four club tricks, throwing a diamond from your hand, and get ready for dessert, coming to your hand with the queen of spades. To your shock, LHO shows out. It seems like you have to lose a spade. Now, aren't you glad you waited. This is the position when you get to your hand.</p>
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A K 10 8 6  
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West's hand is immaterial. Here are the other three hands with five cards left to play. Don't forget to clean your plate. Cash the king of diamonds, throwing a spade from dummy.

2  
 K J 6  
 K  
 \_\_\_\_\_

J 9 7  
 Q 10  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

East is finished. If he throws a spade, the spades come home, so he throws a heart. Now you cash the king of hearts, and when the queen falls, you have twelve tricks.

You have now, on two hands, pulled off an end play and a squeeze, and actually all you really had to think about was DESSERT, saving the big play for last, and really enjoying it.

Let's see if this same idea carries over into counting the opponent's hand. Some players can count every card. Harry, Dewayne, Dickie, and all three Marks. I cannot. My mind does not work that way. But I can count to 13. So can you.

5 4 2	EAST	YOU	WEST	PARTNER
Q 4 3	2 SPADES	DBL	PASS	3 SPADES
A Q 6	PASS	4 NT	PASS	5 HEARTS
A 7 3 2				2 W/ the queen
A	PASS	7 NT	ALL PASS	
A Q J 10 9				
K 10 3				
K Q 9 8				

West leads the 10 of spades, and it appears that you have 13 tricks if the clubs split. If West has four to the J/10, you are down. But if East has that holding, you can still pull it off. How can you tell? Think DESSERT!!!! Clubs is the critical suit. Let's save that suit for dessert.

You know that East started with 6 spades, for his weak two bid. When you pull trump, you find that he started with two hearts. Now test diamonds, leaving the ace in dummy for last. When East shows out on the third diamond, you know his hand. He has six spades, two hearts, 1 diamond, and - **he must have four clubs.** Lead a club to dummy's ace, and when West plays small - if he had played the ten or the jack, you would finesse on the way back - you lead towards your hand, and if East plays low, you win with you eight. It does him no good to split, because then you can go back to dummy and finesse the other honor.

Here are three great hands. You have been awarded your Just Desserts.