

Basic Card combinations

Etobicoke Bridge Centre

Leaside Gardens

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BASIC GUIDELINES

- With equivalent high cards on both sides, play the high card from the short side first
- With all the high cards on one side, always play weakness to strength, ie lead from weak side towards high cards
- With high cards on both sides, you must figure out best way to play. Often the goal is to “trap” a high card, where defender with the key card has to play before the trap.

For each of the following, explain how you can make the maximum tricks, assuming best defense. You may "take the bus" to the other hand at any time, but not if you don't need to.

- | | West | East | |
|---|-------|------|---|
| 1. | Ax | KQxx | “High card from short side first” A; small to K; Q |
| 2. | AQ | xx | “Weakness 2 Strength” : small to Q |
| 3. | Kx | xx | Small to K |
| 4. | Axx | QJ10 | 3 tricks? Run Q. If covered, all good |
| 5. | Axx | KJx | 3 tricks? A first (captures rare stiff K), x to J |
| 6. | AQJ | K | K overtake w Ace |
| 7. | A10x | KJx | Finesse either way; cash A/K, then finesse |
| 8. | AKxx | Jxx | Can you win 3 quick tricks? Yes, AK dropping Qx |
| Best chance at 3 tricks? Small from W towards the J | | | |
| 9. | Axx | Qxx | 2 tricks? (A first); low to the Q |
| 10. | QJx | xxx | 1 trick? Low from E towards QJx=lose to A/K; back to E, repeat |
| 11. | KQx | xxx | 2 tricks? Low from E towards KQx; if wins, back to E, repeat |
| 12. | QTx | Kxx | Low from W to K; Low from E & insert T |
| 13. | AQT | xxx | 3 tricks? Low to T; (if nec.) back to W; low to Q |
| 14. | AJTxx | xxx | 4 tricks? Low to T losing to K/Q; back to E, repeat |
| 15. | A9x | QTx | 2 tricks ? Lead Q or T, cover if covered; back to E, repeat |
| 16. | AQxx | Jxx | 3 quick tricks? Low to the Q; cash K. If doubleton K = 3 quick tricks (stiff K also works) |
| 17. | AQ9 | xxx | 2 tricks? Low to the 9 hoping to force the K. If S splits JT, play Q (losing to K); back to E, low to 9 (finessing other of JT) |

18. AQJT x 3 tricks? "Ruffing finesse" A; Q – if covered ruff – if not covered discard a loser in another suit (now you have JT winners)

19. AQTxx Kxx 5 tricks; handle the most splits 3-2 = all good. Allow for 4-1 but just the holding you can deal with, that is J 4th in South. Play A, then K. If N shows out, finesse S for the J.

20. ATxx Jxxx 3 tricks? Lead low from W & insert T, losing to K/Q. Now cash the Ace, hoping South had doubleton honour.

A. Make 4 Hearts on the following hand

West	East
S AQ	S xx
H AKQxx	H xxxx
D xxx	D xx
C Jxx	C KQx

The defense plays three rounds of high diamonds. (Assume trumps are splitting 2-2)
Describe how you would play to make the hand, starting with the 3rd rd of diamonds.

- Ruff third diamond in dummy
- Draw trump in 2 rounds
- Play J clubs to knock out Ace and to get to the board (K or Q)
- Once on the board, lead a low spade towards AQ; insert Q

B. Make 4 Spades {think entries}

	S J83	
	H AJTxx	
	D AKx	
	C Jx	
S Txx		S x
H K9xx		H Qx
D QJT		D xxxx
C KQT		C A97532
	S AKQ9xx	
	H xx	
	D 862	
	C xx	

Dir: W

E S W N

P 2S P 2N

P 3N P 4S (3N shows solid seat, specifically AKQ 6th)

Contract: 4S by S

Op Ld = KC

Before looking at the answer and playing your first card, take at least one minute to plan your full play.

- Defense Plays K C, partner signals attitude with 7. West continues with Q (W knows what to switch to so he keeps the lead). W switches to Q D.

Declarer's thoughts

- Losers = 2Cs, 1H, 1(slow)D; must eliminate one, that one must be D
- Only way to avoid D loser is w hearts
- Must play hearts to establish an extra winner, discard diamond on it
- Plan the play before playing
 - Can I afford to draw all trumps?. Lets visualize playing 3 rounds of them
 - Now lead a low heart from South and insert the J (loses to Q)
 - Defense plays another diamond, win it
 - Now I wish to lead a 2nd ht from South planning to finesse the remaining honour. BUT I cannot get to South.
 - Ahah! I can only afford to play 2 rds of trumps before first heart play. Now I can get to my hand by pulling the 3rd trump, then lead my 2nd heart.
 - Win the TH, then play AH, discarding my D loser, nice !!!

What a game!!