

Playing NT: when **NOT** to duck the opening lead. Etobicoke BC Last revised: Aug 30 19

1. When you will have 2 stoppers by not ducking

Consider lead of the 3S against your NT contract

Dummy	1. Jx	2. Txxx
Declarer	ATx	A9x

Consider lead of KD against NT contract

Dummy	1. Jxx	2. Txxx
Declarer	Axx	Axx

2. When a shift to a different suit would be worse

Dummy	S xxx H xx	
S KJ62		S Qxx
H A9xx		H QJT5
Declarer	S Axx H Kx	

If you duck opening lead, RHO may shift to Q H. Also note: How many spade tricks do the opps have at most?

3. When you create a 2<sup>nd</sup> stopper by keeping the dangerous opponent off the lead

Dummy	xx
Declarer	AJx

Low card led, RHO plays the Q. If you can keep your RHO (dangerous opponent) off the lead, after taking your Ace at trick one, your Jx is a stopper when LHO has the lead.

4. When you have Kxx (not Axx), and if you duck they can run the suit (thru your K)

Dummy	xx
AQT63	Jxx
Declarer	Kxx

5. When you have Ax opposite xx. No value in ducking so (confidently ) play the A right away. Opponents may think you have another stopper.