

Hand 209 Responding to an Opening Bid. Dummy Recognition.
Dlr: West
Vul: N-S

	North	
	S. J1098	
	H. K43	
	D. KJ97	
	C. 74	
West		East
S. 63		S. KQ42
H. AJ1097		H. Q85
D. A42		D. 106
C. A85		C. Q632
	South	
	S. A75	
	H. 62	
	D. Q853	
	C. KJ109	

West	North	East	South
1H	Pass	2H	All Pass

Opening lead: SJ

Bidding Commentary: As East, you have a maximum raise to 2H. It is not a good idea to start with 1S when holding three hearts and fewer than 10 HCP. If you do, and partner bids 2C or 2D you are not well placed. You aren't strong enough to jump to 3H (10-12 points) and if you return to 2H, you show a doubleton heart! As South, a non-passed hand, you are not strong to make a takeout double of 2H. If you were a passed hand, you might chance it, but the double would be flawed lacking four spades.

Defensive Commentary: As South, ask yourself how can declarer use this dummy profitably? There are three possibilities: (1) long Suit Establishment: (2) trumping losers in the dummy; (3) Neither. Dummy is balanced. On this hand, long suit establishment can be eliminated. You have the clubs covered and partner appears to have the spades. However, there is a possibility that declarer can trump a diamond or two in dummy. Your counter move is to shift to a low heart at trick two. As North, if partner switches to a low heart and declarer ducks, win the king and follow partner's defense by continuing with a heart. When later on lead in diamonds, play a third heart killing any possible diamond ruff in dummy.

Play Commentary: As West, if the defense plays a heart and a heart at tricks two and three, give up on trying to ruff a diamond and try to set up clubs instead. Lead a club to the queen and later the ace and a club hoping for a 3-3 break. Sorry. Not this time. Even though you gave it your best shot, you are slated to lose two clubs, two diamonds and a trick in each major for one in the ashcan.

Hand 210 Responding to an overcall. Reading the lead. Third hand play.

Dlr: West

Vul: E-W

	North	
	S. QJ1097	
	H. AJ105	
	D. 76	
	C. 42	
West		East
S. 52		S. 86
H. K87632		H. 94
D. AK9		D. 854
C. A5		C. K98763
	South	
	S. AK43	
	H. Q	
	D. QJ1032	
	C. QJ10	

West	North	East	South
1H	1S	Pass	4S

All Pass

Opening lead: H9

Bidding Commentary: As North, you have a minimum for a one level overcall. As South, 16 support points (not counting the HQ) facing a one level overcall 'usually' produces game.

Defensive Commentary: As West, decide what partner is leading from to determine what declarer has in the suit. The lead is a likely top of a doubleton. With 9xx(x) in an unsupported suit, partner leads low. If partner has a doubleton, declarer has the AJ10x. If you cover, declarer will eventually be able to discard two clubs from dummy on the J10 of hearts. If partner has the CK, your cover costs a club trick, the setting trick! When partner's lead shows no honor cards, dummy has a singleton honor, and you have a higher honor than dummy, cover if you can promote a second or third round trick for yourself. For example, cover holding the KJ or the K10 of hearts. If you can't promote at least a third round trick, play low.

Play Commentary: As North, If West covers the HQ, blow West a kiss, draw trumps, and discard two clubs on the J10 of hearts. Instead of losing two clubs, you lose only one and bag a miracle game.

Defensive Commentary #2 As East, give count (D4) when a diamond is played. As West, make sure you take four tricks in the minors assuming you played low at trick one. Partner needs the CK to defeat the contract and you know two diamonds are cashing.

Hand 223 Weak Two. Third Hand Play. Suit Preference Return.
Dlr: South
Vul: Neither

North
S. K94
H. 43
D. A9653
C. 986

West
S. Q76
H. AQ2
D. Q107
C. AQ73

East
S. 10
H. KJ10875
D. KJ84
C. K5

South
S. AJ8753
H. 96
D. 2
C. J1042

South	West	North	East
2S	2NT	3S	4H
All Pass			

Opening lead: D2

Bidding Commentary: As West, your 2NT overcall of a Weak Two shows the strength of an opening 1NT bid. As North, 3S is a blocking bid. As it happens jumping to 4S (foolhardy or courageous?) might have driven East to bid 5H!

Lead Commentary: With a relatively weak hand facing a partner who has not shown much, go for diamond ruffs to try to defeat this contract and lead your singleton.

Defensive Commentary: As North, a partner who makes a preemptive bid usually has a singleton and usually leads it! In fact, if a singleton isn't led, it's likely that the singleton is a trump, an inference that declarer should keep in mind.

Further Defensive Commentary: As North, assume the lead is a singleton, grab the ace and return the D9, suit preference for spades, the higher ranking side suit. A low diamond return shows club interest. As South, after trumping the D9, get out with a low spade as requested. As North, don't lose your nerve. Step up with the SK and give partner a second diamond ruff, the setting trick.

Play Commentary: As East, you might try the ploy of playing the DK at trick one trying to scare North into not returning a diamond. After all, you are desperate!

Hand 216 Rebid by the Takeout Doubler. Discards. Trump Promotion.
 Dlr: East
 Vul: Vul: N-S

	North	
	S. J42	
	H. 93	
	D. 1082	
	C. 76532	
West		East
S. AKQ		S. 109875
H. 1087		H. 642
D. AKJ53		D. 76
C. A4		C. KQ8
	South	
	S. 63	
	H. AKQJ5	
	D. Q94	
	C. J109	

East	South	West	North
Pass	1H	Dbl.	Pass
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
2S	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	All Pass		

Opening lead: HA

Bidding Commentary: As West, the 2H cuebid after your takeout double shows three-card support for partner's suit presumably with 18+ 19 HCP. Your 3S bid is invitational and shows 20-21 HCP. Partner could have nothing! As East, you have enough to accept partner's invitation.

Defensive Commentary: As North, start a high-low in hearts and on the third heart discard the C2. You need partner to play a 4th heart to promote your SJ, so make a negative discard (C2) in a suit partner is likely to lead, clubs.

Defensive Commentary #2 As South, honor partner's discard of the C2 telling you nothing's doing there. If there is nothing doing in clubs, the only hope is that partner has the SJ in which case you must lead a 4th round of hearts for a trump promotion.

When making a discard in a situation where you need a trump promotion and want partner to give declarer a ruff and sluff, discard negatively in a suit partner is likely to want to lead (clubs), don't waste a discard in a suit (diamonds) partner is unlikely to want to lead in any case.

Hand 225 Leads Vs. Suit. Reading the Lead. Giving partner a ruff.

Dlr: West

Vul: Neither

North
S. A72
H. 104
D. Q8543
C. J73

West
S. KJ85
H. K32
D. A9
C. A1042

East
S. Q1094
H. QJ5
D. J10
C. KQ96

South
S. 63
H. A9876
D. K762
C. 85

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	All Pass

Opening lead: H10

Bidding Commentary: A routine Stayman auction. As South, if you even thought of bidding 2H, keep it a deep dark secret. .

Lead Commentary: The lead of a short suit with trump control is recommended.

Defensive Commentary: As South, the lead must be from shortness. When a 10 is led and you can see the 9, partner's lead is from shortness, not top of a sequence. But is the lead a singleton or a doubleton? Ask yourself this question: If the lead is a singleton, how many hearts does declarer have? Well, if partner has a singleton heart, declarer has four, not consistent with the bidding. With 4-4 in the majors, the normal response to 2C is 2H.

Once you play partner for a doubleton, signal encouragement with the H9. Do not play the ace. Save partner's remaining heart so he can lead it when he gets in. Had you the DA, a certain outside entry, you wouldn't have to worry whether the lead is from a singleton or from a doubleton. You can afford to win the HA and return a high heart to show a diamond entry. If partner has a singleton, partner ruffs and returns a diamond. If partner has a doubleton, he puts you in with a diamond when gets in with a trump. It's only when you don't have a certain outside entry that you have to work out the whether the lead is from a singleton or a doubleton. You can do it!

Defensive Commentary #2. As North, win the SA and return a heart to get your ruff. Declarer's diamond loser is the setting trick. Nice defense.

Hand #212 Trick One Signal at a Suit Contract

Dlr: West

Vul: Both

	North	
	S. Q942	
	H. K5	
	D. J9	
	C. AK1092	
West		East
S. 8		S. 653
H. J9642		H. AQ10
D. A1043		D. KQ872
C. 874		C. 65
	South	
	S. AKJ107	
	H. 873	
	D. 65	
	C. QJ3	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1C	1D	1S
3D	3S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Opening lead: DA

Bidding Commentary: In the modern game, jump raises of opening bids or overcalls in competition (3D) are preemptive. A cuebid is used to show strong supporting hands. As North, do not count for the DJ, a secondary honor card in a suit that has been both bid and supported. Even so, your hand is strong enough to bid 3S and South is strong to bid 4S attaching extra value to honors in partner's first bid suit. (C QJ)

Defensive Commentary: As East, when partner leads a winning card in a suit you have bid, and a suit in which you have strength, check dummy to determine whether you want a continuation or prefer a shift. If you want a shift, play your lowest card. Good partners can usually work out the 'shift' suit. It is usually dummy's shorter side suit. Since you want a heart shift, play the D2. If you get the shift you can take two hearts and two diamonds and defeat the contract one trick. If you don't ask for a shift and partner returns a diamond, you only get one heart trick as declarer can rattle off five spades and five clubs for 10 tricks.

These hands are from Eddie Kantar's wonderful "Thinking Bridge" series of books

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at LynnYokel@gmail.com