

SUIT DIVISIONS

Think about the distribution pattern of an important suit. Rather than remembering exactly who played what (the hard way to do it), imagine possible defensive divisions of key suits.

You have eight cards in a suit. What are likely defensive divisions? Might the bidding offer a clue? What would a takeout double tell you? What would a major-suit opening tell you?

CLUES FROM THE BIDDING

Remember who bid what. Consider the auction before playing.

An opponent who has opened or doubled is likely to have most of the missing high cards. Where are any Aces & Kings that the defense has? Some finesses become attractive, others repulsive.

If an opponent has shown a suit, be aware of his length in that suit. You might throw an opponent on lead in his long suit.

CLUES FROM THE OPENING LEAD

What sort of opening lead did Left-Hand-Opponent make?

- Long suit
- Short suit (Where are the missing high-cards in that suit?)
- Top of honor sequence.

Deal 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 10 9 6 5 4
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ J 8 6 5
 ♣ 10 9

♠ A Q
 ♥ 5 3 2
 ♦ A 10 9 3
 ♣ K 7 6 5



♠ 3 2
 ♥ A K J 8
 ♦ K Q 4 2
 ♣ 4 3 2

1
 13 13
 13

♠ K J 8 7
 ♥ Q 10 9 7
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A Q J 8

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♦	Dbl
Rdbl!	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

3 NT by West

Lead: ♠ 5

Caters to the Doubler having short ♦.
 (Play ♦ King, then ♦ Ace). Also, the
 ♣ King finesse is likely to work.

Deal 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 9 7 4
 ♥ 10 7 6 5
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ J 10 9 5

♠ K J 2
 ♥ Q J 8 4 3
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ A K Q



♠ Q 10 8 3
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ A J 7 6
 ♣ 8 7 3

1
 16 10
 13

♠ A 6 5
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ K Q 8 4 3
 ♣ 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
1 ♥!	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

3 NT by East

Lead: ♦ 4

Lead a low ♥ through opening bidder

Deal 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ Q 10 6
 ♥ K 8
 ♦ A 9 4 3
 ♣ A 9 4 2

♠ 8 5 2
 ♥ J 9 6 5 4
 ♦ 10
 ♣ K 10 8 6



♠ 3
 ♥ A Q 10 7
 ♦ Q J 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 7 5

13
 4 11
 12

♠ A K J 9 7 4
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ K 8 5
 ♣ J 3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠!	Pass	Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♦ 10

Cover ♦ Ten with ♦ Ace. Draw
 trump, then lead a ♦ toward ♦ King-

Deal 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 9 5
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ A 10 8 7 3 2
 ♣ K Q 2

♠ K 8 4 3
 ♥ A Q 10 5 3
 ♦ K
 ♣ J 8 4



♠ J 6 2
 ♥ J 8
 ♦ 9 6 5 4
 ♣ 10 9 6 3

12
 13 2
 13

♠ A Q 10 7
 ♥ 9 7 4 2
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ A 7 5

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT!	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ J

Shun ♠ finesse. Throw West on lead.