

TEST YOUR PLAY AS DECLARER

V O L U M E 1



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PROBLEM 1

Rubber bridge
East-West vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 8 6
♥ 6 2
♦ 10 4
♣ A 7 6 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 5
♥ A Q 5 4
♦ A J 3
♣ K Q 9 8

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West leads the spade king.

Plan the play.

SOLUTION 1

♠ A 8 6
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ 10 4
 ♣ A 7 6 4 3 2

♠ K Q J 10 3
 ♥ K 10 8
 ♦ Q 5
 ♣ J 10 5

♠ 7 4 2
 ♥ J 9 7 3
 ♦ K 9 8 7 6 2
 ♣ —

♠ 9 5
 ♥ A Q 5 4
 ♦ A J 3
 ♣ K Q 9 8

South seems to have nine easy tricks, but there is a fly in the ointment: the club suit is blocked. The block will not prevent running the suit if the opponents' clubs are split 2-1. In that case, declarer can win the first two club tricks with the king and queen, exhausting the East-West clubs, then win the third trick in clubs with the nine, and finally overtake the eight with the ace.

However, a 3-0 club split will doom this plan, and declarer should take measures to guard against this possibility. The simplest way to overcome the problem is to discard one of South's clubs. This can be accomplished only through one suit, spades, so South should duck the opening lead.

If West leads another spade, declarer ducks again and can now take nine tricks by playing king-queen-ace of clubs and throwing his last club on the spade ace.

If West shifts, declarer wins and ducks another spade himself, achieving the same position.

PROBLEM 2

Rubber bridge
East-West vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 8 4 3
♥ —
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ K Q J 10 8 4

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 5 2
♥ J 9 6 4
♦ A K
♣ A 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads the heart three.

Plan the play.

SOLUTION 2

♠ 8 4 3
♥ —
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ K Q J 10 8 4

♠ 10
♥ K 10 8 3 2
♦ J 9 7
♣ 9 7 6 5

♠ J 9 7 6
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ Q 10 5 3
♣ 2

♠ A K Q 5 2
♥ J 9 6 4
♦ A K
♣ A 3

After ruffing the opening lead in dummy, declarer should lead a trump from dummy and play low from his own hand. The defenders can win this trick, but declarer will take the rest (barring a 5-0 break in a black suit). A further heart lead can be ruffed in dummy.

This play gives up an overtrick when trumps break 3-2, but preserves the contract when trumps break 4-1. If declarer tries to draw trumps by leading high ones, a 4-1 trump break defeats him.

If South tries to ruff two hearts and throw another on a club, he may be frustrated by a 4-1 club break. The immediate duck in spades avoids all these dangers.