

Improvers' Lesson 8: Defensive 2nd & 3rd Hand Play

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ K 6 3	♥ 10 5 4 2	♦ 8 7	♣ Q 10 8 4
♠ Q 9 4	♥ Q J 8	♦ J 10 6 3	♣ A 9 3
♠ A 8 7 5	♥ K 7	♦ A 9 2	♣ K 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT
All pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT

Lead: ♣ 4

The small card lead promises an honour. When in dummy, declarer leads the ♠ J, East MUST NOT cover. Best practice is to cover the second card of the sequence. Now the defence will win 2 spade tricks.. If the ♠ J is covered declarer will play towards the ♠ 10 and EW will win only 1 spade trick. Correct defence defeats the contract

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 10 8 2	♥ K 6	♦ A 4 3	♣ J 8 7 4
♠ A J 5	♥ 9 8 7 2	♦ 9 5	♣ A 10 6 5
♠ 9 6 3	♥ A Q 5	♦ K Q 8 7 6	♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
All pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT

Lead: ♠ 2

If declarer plays low, East must play the ♠ J (a surrounding card). Now a diamond switch up to the weakness in dummy.

West continues with the ♠ Q and declarer loses 4 spades. West exits with a low club and East plays the ♣ 10 if dummy plays low.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 5 4 2	♥ 6 2	♦ 6 4 3	♣ K Q 10 3 2
♠ A K 8	♥ A K 7	♦ A Q 9 5	♣ J 9 7
♠ 7 6	♥ Q J 10 3	♦ K 10 8 2	♣ A 8 6

West	North	East	South
3 NT	All pass	2 NT	Pass

Lead : ♥ Q

North encourages with the ♥ 4. When declarer plays clubs, South must hold up the ace until the 3rd round which will restrict West's club tricks to 2.

North will eventually get in with the ♥ 9 and should exit with the ♠ Q which should result in declarer going 2 light.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q J 7	♥ K 6 5	♦ 7 4 3	♣ K 7 4 3
♠ A 10 6 4 3	♥ 9 3	♦ 6 5 2	♣ Q 10 8
♠ 5 2	♥ A Q 8 2	♦ K Q J 10	♣ A J 2
♠ K 9 8	♥ J 10 7 4	♦ A 9 8	♣ 9 6 5

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

Lead: ♠ 3

South wins the opening lead with the ♠ K and returns the ♠ 9. North should duck a round to keep communication with partner. When South wins ♦ A, a spade can be returned to North.

If North plays ♠ A too early and clears the spades, declarer can finesse clubs and make an overtrick.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q 7	♥ A 4	♦ J 10 9 7 5 3	♣ 10 9 8
♠ K 9 2	♥ 10 6 5 3	♦ K 6 2	♣ Q J 7
♠ A 8 6 5	♥ Q J 9 8 7	♦ 4	♣ A K 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
All pass		Pass	4 ♠

Lead ♣ Q

Declarer will come to their hand with the ♥ K or ♦ A and if they play the ♠ J, East must NOT cover as North will have the ♠ 10 and it is better to cover the second card in a sequence.

Now the defence will win two trump tricks as well as a club and the ♥ A.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 10 7	♥ 9 8 7 4	♦ K 9 4 3	♣ A 10 2
♠ K 9 3	♥ J 2	♦ Q 8 6	♣ Q 6 5 4 3
♠ 8 5 4 2	♥ 6 5	♦ A J 7 5	♣ J 9 8
♠ A Q J 6	♥ A K Q 10 3	♦ 10 2	♣ K 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT	Pass	1 ♥
All pass			3 NT

Lead: ♦ 5

West wins ♦ K and should return the ♦ 3. East now knows that West started with either 2 or 4 diamonds.

When in with the ♦ J, East can safely play the ♦ A. The defence can then win four diamond tricks and the ♣ A to defeat the contract.

Board 4
West Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 8 7 4	♥ Q 7 4	♦ Q 6	♣ K 6 4
♠ 3	♥ A J 9 6 2	♦ A 8 7 5	♣ A 8 2
♠ A 6 2	♥ 10 8 5	♦ K J 2	♣ J 10 7 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	All pass		

Lead: ♣ J

North encourages with the ♣ 5. Declarer should now play towards the ♦ Q. South wins ♦ K and continues clubs.

If declarer now crosses to the ♦ Q and plays ♥ Q, North must cover with ♥ K to attempt to promote a card in partner's hand. Partner now wins the ♥ 10.

Board 8
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ A 4 3	♥ A K 9 7 6 2	♦ K Q 3	♣ 3
♠ K 8 7 2	♥ 5	♦ A 8 5 2	♣ 9 6 4 2
♠ 9 6 5	♥ J 10 3	♦ J 10 7 6	♣ A Q 7
♠ Q J 10	♥ Q 8 4	♦ 9 4	♣ K J 10 8 5

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

Lead: ♠ 2

South must play the ♠ 10 (lowest of touching cards when following suit). If declarer later leads the ♥ J, South should play low smoothly.

When North gets in with the ♦ A, they will know that South has the ♠ J and ♠ Q as declarer would have won with one of them.