

Improvers' Lesson 7 - Signals & Discards

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q J 7
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ Q J 9 8 4
 ♣ J 10 9

♠ A 10 9 6 2
 ♥ 8 5 4
 ♦ A K
 ♣ K Q 6

♠ 8
 ♥ A K 6 2
 ♦ 10 7 6 2
 ♣ A 8 5 3

West: 2 ♠
 North: Pass
 East: 1 ♠
 South: 3 ♠

Lead: ♥ A

On the ♥ A lead, North must encourage with ♥ 3 (low = like). South can show which suit to return by playing a low heart on the 3rd round. (low = lower side-suit = ♣ suit).

South then wins ♣ A and returns another heart to be ruffed by North to prevent a club discard.

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ Q 8 7 6
 ♥ 5 3 2
 ♦ 10 7 5 3
 ♣ 6 2

♠ J 10 2
 ♥ 9 8
 ♦ Q 6 4
 ♣ K Q J 9 3

♠ A 4
 ♥ K Q 7 6 4
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ 8 7 5 4

♠ K 9 5 3
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ A K J 8
 ♣ A 10

West: All pass
 North: Pass
 East: Pass
 South: 2 NT

Lead: ♣ K

Declarer wins ♣ A and plays a low spade towards the ♠ Q. East wins, returns a club, and EW cash their winners.

On the last club East discards the ♥ 4 to encourage a heart switch. This defeats the contract by 1 trick.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A Q 7 6
 ♥ 9 8 3
 ♦ 9 3
 ♣ K J 9 8

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

♠ 5 4
 ♥ A Q 10 6 5
 ♦ 7 5 2
 ♣ 7 6 2

♠ K 8 3 2
 ♥ K 7 4
 ♦ K Q J 10
 ♣ A 3

West: Pass
 North: 1 ♠
 East: Pass
 South: 3 ♠

Lead: ♠ J

♠ J is a safe lead. West's first discard should be the ♣ 7 - showing no honour. Now, when declarer plays the diamond suit, East can win and knows to switch to the ♥ J.

This defeats the contract.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 10 8 7 4 2
 ♥ 9 8 4
 ♦ A 3
 ♣ A 5 4

♠ A 5
 ♥ K 6 3 2
 ♦ 5 4 2
 ♣ J 10 7 2

♠ K 3
 ♥ Q J 10 5
 ♦ K Q 9 7
 ♣ Q 8 3

♠ Q J 9 6
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ J 10 8 6
 ♣ K 9 6

West: All pass
 North: Pass
 East: 1 NT
 South: All pass

Lead: ♠ Q

North encourages with the ♠ 2 so, when South wins ♥ A, it is easy to continue spades.

Declarer wins and continues hearts, ending in dummy, then leads a low diamond towards the ♦ KQ. North rises with the ♦ A and wins 3 spade tricks, along with 2 red aces and 2 clubs.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 8
 ♥ Q 8 4
 ♦ A K Q 4
 ♣ 10 8 6 4 2

♠ A Q
 ♥ K J 6 3
 ♦ J 10 8 2
 ♣ K Q J

♠ K J 10 7 6 4 3
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ 5

♠ 9 5 2
 ♥ 10 9 7 5
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ A 9 7 3

West: 3 ♠
 North: Pass
 East: 4 ♠
 South: All pass

Lead: ♦ A

North leads ♦ A, then ♦ K and ♦ Q. South discards ♣ 3 on the 3rd round to show an honour. North switches to a club to defeat the contract.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ K 2
 ♥ K Q J
 ♦ A J 5
 ♣ J 10 9 7 2

♠ 8
 ♥ 5 3 2
 ♦ 10 9 7 6 2
 ♣ A K Q 5

♠ A Q 5 4 3
 ♥ 10 9 8 7
 ♦ 4 3
 ♣ 8 6

♠ J 10 9 7 6
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ K Q 8
 ♣ 4 3

West: All pass
 North: 1 ♣
 East: Pass
 South: 1 ♠

Lead: ♥ 10

North wins with the ♥ A in dummy and runs ♠ J. East wins with the ♠ Q and exits with another heart. Declarer now plays ♠ K to East's ♠ A. West should discard a low club (low=like) or ♦ 9 (high=hate).

The contract will now go 1 down.

Board 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 5 3
 ♥ K J 5 3
 ♦ Q J 9 8
 ♣ 10 9 7

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

♠ K Q J 2
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ K 8 5 4

♠ A 10 7 6
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ A K 7 6
 ♣ A Q 3

West: All pass
 North: Pass
 East: Pass
 South: 1 NT

Lead: ♠ K

East signals discouragement with the ♠ 9. When in again, West should switch to the ♥ 7 through dummy's honours. East wins and returns a spade to West who plays another heart.

This pattern is continued whenever the defence gets in. This great defence will defeat the contract.

Board 8
 West Deals
 None Vul

♠ K Q J 9 8 7
 ♥ A
 ♦ 10 7
 ♣ J 9 6 2

♠ A 10 4
 ♥ K Q 6 5 4
 ♦ K Q 6
 ♣ A 8

♠ 3 2
 ♥ 10 9 8 7
 ♦ A 5 4 2
 ♣ Q 5 3

♠ 6 5
 ♥ J 3 2
 ♦ J 9 8 3
 ♣ K 10 7 4

West: 1 ♥
 North: 1 ♠
 East: 2 ♥
 South: Pass

Lead: ♠ K

South encourages partner's lead with the ♠ 5 hoping for a ruff. North then wins ♥ A and continues spades. South overruffs the 3rd round with the ♥ J. South must be careful not to exit with a club which would give declarer an extra trick.

Best play now is to lead a trump.