

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

**Board 1**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

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

♠ 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

♠ K 7 4  
 ♥ J 10 4 3  
 ♦ J 10 2  
 ♣ K 3 2

♠ 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

♠ Q J 10 9 3  
 ♥ 9 8 5 4  
 ♦ J 7  
 ♣ 5 4

♠ 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

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

♠ Q J 7  
 ♥ K 6 5  
 ♦ 7 4 3  
 ♣ K 7 4 3

♠ 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

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

♠ 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

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

♠ 10 7  
 ♥ 9 8 7 4  
 ♦ K 9 4 3  
 ♣ A 10 2

♠ 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		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

♠ K Q 10 5  
 ♥ K 3  
 ♦ 10 9 4 3  
 ♣ Q 9 5

♠ 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

♠ K 8 7 2  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ A 8 5 2  
 ♣ 9 6 4 2

♠ A 4 3  
 ♥ A K 9 7 6 2  
 ♦ K Q 3  
 ♣ 3

♠ 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.