

Missing Cards Break %

2 Missing Cards

1-1 Break	52%
2-0 Break	48%

3 Missing Cards

2-1 Break	78%
3-0 Break	22%

4 Missing Cards

2-2 Break	40%
3-1 Break	50%
4-0 Break	10%

5 Missing Cards

3-2 Break	68%
4-1 Break	28%
5-0 Break	4%

6 Missing Cards

3-3 Break	36%
4-2 Break	48%
5-1 Break	15%
6-0 Break	1%

7 Missing Cards

4-3 Break	62%
5-2 Break	30%
6-1 Break	7%
7-0 Break	1%

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	North	
	♠ Q 3	
	♥ K 7 5	
	♦ A K T 6 4 3	
	♣ 8 7	
West	♥ J	East
	♠ A K J T 8 4	
	♥ A 8	
	♦ 7 2	
	♣ A <u>Q</u> 5	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads ♥ J against your Grand Slam in ♠. How would you plan to play?

Number of Losers? → 2 in Clubs

We have two lines of play; what are chances for each?

Finesse of Clubs?

Establish Diamonds for Discarding C losers?

There are two ways to make the contract:

Finesse of C king. If King of C is with East, a 50% chance, we make.

Alternative is to establish D. If D is 3-2, a 68% chance, we make, a much better chance.

Note we need to take the H lead in hand with ace and preserve King of H in dummy for entry.

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	North	
	♠ A 7	
	♥ A J T 6	
	♦ 9 6 5 2	
	♣ A 7 3	
West ♣ J		East
	♠ K Q J 8 4 3 2	
	♥ 7 <u>3</u>	
	♦ A <u>Q</u>	
	♣ K 5	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads ♣ J against your Slam in ♠. How would you plan to play?

Number of Losers? → 1 in D and 1 in H

We have two lines of play; what are chances for each?

Finesse of Diamonds?

Establish Diamonds for Discarding D losers?

There are two ways to make the contract:

Finesse of D king. If King of D is with East, a 50% chance, we make.

Alternative is to establish D. If King and Queen of D are split between opponents or West has them both, 75% chance, this line will succeed.

	West	East
a)	K & Q	no honor
b)	K	Q
c)	Q	K
d)	no honor	K & Q

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	♠ K 6 3	
	♥ K 4	
	♦ A K 8 4	
	♣ J T 6 2	
West	♥ Q	East
	♠ A 9 8 5 <u>2</u>	
	♥ <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u>	
	♦ Q 5 2	
	♣ A <u>Q</u>	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads ♥Q against your Game in ♠. East wins your K with Ace and switch ♣. How would you plan to play?

Number of Losers? → 5 in total (1 in S, 3 in H and 1 in C)

We can ruff one H before drawing any trumps

To eliminate our C loser, we have two lines of play; chances for each?

Finesse of Clubs?

Establish Diamonds for Discarding C losers?

What if in dummy, we had: ♦ A K J 4 ?

C finesse is 50%

D being 3-3 to create a discard is 36%

So best is to go for C finesse.

If we had D AKJ4 in dummy, we should take the C ace. Draw two rounds of trumps and then play 4 round of D:

If D is 3-3 (36%) we will succeed. Also if it is 4-2 and person with 4 diamonds has the last trump ($48/2=24\%$) we will succeed. Total chance of over 60%.

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	♠ A Q 7 6 2	
	♥ A 9 8	
	♦ 6 3	
	♣ J T 4	
West ♣ 5		East
	♠ 5	
	♥ K 5 <u>3</u>	
	♦ A K <u>4</u>	
	♣ A K Q 9 8 3	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads a trump against your Grand Slam in Game in ♣.
How would you plan to play? Finesse ♠ or Setup ♠ ?

Number of Losers? → 2; 1 in D and 1 in H

We have two lines to play Spades to create a discard for Hearts; what are chances for each line?

Finesse for King of Spades and if successful, we have our discard
Establish Spades by ruffing 3 times to create a discard

We need to discard a H loser.

It can be done using spades, either by finesse or by trying to setup spades by ruffing.

Spade finesse is 50%.

Cashing ace of spades and ruffing 3 spades, will succeed if spades are 4-3 (62%), plus when spade king is singleton or doubleton (another 9%).

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	North	
	♠ 8 3	
	♥ A K 5	
	♦ A T 8 7	
	♣ A K 8 6	
West	♠ 2	East
	♠ J 9 6	
	♥ 9 6 4 2	
	♦ K Q 2	
	♣ Q 7 5	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads ♠2 against your 3NT and they score 4 tricks.
What two cards would you discard from dummy? Why?

Number of Top Tricks? → 8 (2 in H, 3 in D, 3 in C), needing 1

We need the extra trick either from C or D; what are chances for each?

Clubs?

Diamonds?

We have chances in minors but need to discard C or D on the 4th round of spades.

We should discard C. C chance is 36%.

D chance, because of Ten of D presence is much better:

36% for a 3-3 break

25% for when Jack drops after 2 rounds, or when west hold Jxxxx

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	♠ A Q 3	
	♥ K 7	
	♦ A K T 4	
	♣ Q 9 7 2	
West	♠ J	East
	♠ 8 <u>4</u>	
	♥ A Q J T 9 6 3	
	♦ Q 8 3	
	♣ <u>J</u>	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads ♠J against your Small Slam in ♥.
How would you plan to play?

Number of Losers? → 2; 1 in Spades and 1 in Clubs

We have two lines of play; what are chances for each?

Finesse of Spades?

Establish Diamonds for Discarding C losers?

We have 2 losers, a C and one spades

Spade is 50% but Jack of D is unlikely to be from KJT !?

D 3-3 break is 36% plus 16% if D is 4-2 with Jack being doubleton, plus when D is 5-1 and 5 cards in west and Jack in the 5 card Jxxxx (another 7%).. Adding small fraction for singleton J, our total chance is about 61%, a clear advantage for D play

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	♠ 9 6	
	♥ 8 2	
	♦ A J T 4	
	♣ A T 8 6 2	
West	♥ Q	East
	♠ A K Q J 5 4	
	♥ A K <u>5</u> <u>3</u>	
	♦ 7 <u>6</u>	
	♣ 3	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads ♥Q against your Small Slam in ♠.
How would you plan to play?

Number of Losers? → 3; 2 in Hearts and 1 in Diamonds

We have two lines of play; what are chances for each?

Ruffing H loser twice, the second ruff with 9

Double finesse Diamonds

Ruffing two hearts, rely on person with 3 hearts not to have ten of Spades, this is a 50% chance.

Playing double finesse in D, will only fail if east has both K and Q of D, only 25%. So 75% it will succeed.

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	North	
	♠ A 2	
	♥ 8 7 3	
	♦ 8 7 6 4 2	
	♣ A Q 3	
West ♣ 2		East
	♠ K Q J T 6 5	
	♥ A K Q <u>6</u>	
	♦ K <u>Q</u>	
	♣ 8	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads ♣2 against your Small Slam in ♠.
How would you plan to play?

Number of Losers? → 2; 1 in Hearts and 1 in Diamonds

To eliminate H loser, we have two lines; what are chances for each?

Ruffing H loser

Finesse of C by playing Queen

We have one certain D loser.

C finesse is 50%

H being 3-3 is 36%

We should go with C finesse

Comparing Two Lines of Play

	North	
	♠ 9 7	
	♥ J 6 5 2	
	♦ Q J T 6	
	♣ K Q 4	
West	♠ K	East
	♠ A 6	
	♥ A K 8	
	♦ A 9 7 3	
	♣ A J 9 3	
	South (Declarer)	

West leads ♠K against your 3NT.
How would you plan to play?

How Many Quick Tricks? 8 (1 in S, 2 in H, 1 in D, 4 in C)

What about ♥?

Finesse of ♦ a 50% chance

Should you play ♣ first?

D finesse is 50%

Rather than rely solely on this, we should play Ace and King of H. If Queen drops, we have our 9th trick and no need for finesse.

If Queen of H doesn't drop, we can take D finesse.

Note we should not play 4 rounds of C as we can't finesse D (we need to be in dummy to finesse D).

Comparing Two Lines of Play

North	
♠ Q 9 3	
♥ A J 9 6	
♦ J 7 6 2	
♣ A 5	
West ♣ K	East
♠ A K J T 8 4	
♥ Q T <u>4</u>	
♦ A K	
♣ 9 <u>3</u>	
South (Declarer)	

West leads ♣K against your small slam in ♠.
How would you plan to play?

How Many Losers? 2; 1 in H and 1 in C

♥ Finesse is 50%
What about ♦ ?

We have a club loser and a H loser.

Finesse of H is 50%.

We can improve by drawing two rounds trump by playing ace and king

Then two rounds of D, crossing to dummy with Queen pf trump and ruff a D.

If person with Queen of D has singleton D, Qx or Qxx, our jack of D is good for discarding our C loser.

If this doesn't work and Queen doesn't drop, we can always finesse D, nothing is lost.

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		Hand 1	
		Dealer South	
		North	
		♠ Q 3	
		♥ K 7 5	
		♦ A K T 6 4 3	
		♣ 8 7	
West	♠ 9 7 6	♠ 5 2	East
	♥ J T 9 6	♥ Q 4 3 2	
	♦ Q 8	♦ J 9 5	
	♣ K J 4 3	♣ T 9 6 2	
		♠ A K J T 8 4	
		♥ A 8	
		♦ 7 2	
		♣ A Q 5	
		South (Dealer)	

There are two ways to make the contract:

Finesse of C king. If King of C is with East, a 50% chance, we make.

Alternative is to establish D. If D is 3-2, a 68% chance, we make, a much better chance.

Note we need to take the H lead in hand with ace and preserve King of H in dummy for entry.

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		Hand 2	
		Dealer West	
		North	
		♠ 9 6	
		♥ Q 9 2	
		♦ K 8 7 4	
		♣ J T 9 6	
West	♠ K Q J 8 4 3 2	♠ A 7	East
	♥ 7 3	♥ A J T 6	
	♦ A Q	♦ 9 6 5 2	
	♣ K 5	♣ A 7 3	
		South	
		♠ T 5	
		♥ K 8 5 4	
		♦ J T 3	
		♣ Q 8 4 2	

There are two ways to make the contract:

Finesse of D king. If King of D is with East, a 50% chance, we make.

Alternative is to establish D. If King and Queen of D are split between opponents or West has them both, 75% chance, this line will succeed.

	West	East
a)	K & Q	no honor
b)	K	Q
c)	Q	K
d)	no honor	K & Q

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		<u>North</u>		Hand 3	
		♠ A 9 8 5 2		Dealer North	
		♥ 9 5 2			
		♦ Q 5 2			
		♣ A Q			
West	♠ T 9	♠ Q J 7	East		
	♥ A 8 7 6 3	♥ Q J T			
	♦ T 3	♦ J 9 7 6			
	♣ K 9 8 4	♣ 7 5 3			
		♠ K 6 3			
		♥ K 4			
		♦ A K 8 4			
		♣ J T 6 2			
		South			

C finesse is 50%

D being 3-3 to create a discard is 36%

So best is to go for C finesse.

If we had D AKJ4 in dummy, we should take the C ace. Draw two rounds of trumps and then play 4 round of D:

If D is 3-3 (36%) we will succeed. Also if it is 4-2 and person with 4 diamonds has the last trump ($48/2=24\%$) we will succeed. Total chance of over 60%

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		<u>North</u>			Hand 4
		♠ K T 9 3			Dealer East
		♥ Q T 4			
		♦ T 9 8 7			
		♣ 6 2			
West	♠ A Q 7 6 2		♠ 5	East	
	♥ A 9 8		♥ K 5 3		
	♦ 6 3		♦ A K 4		
	♣ J T 4		♣ A K Q 9 8 3		
		♠ J 8 4			
		♥ J 7 6 2			
		♦ Q J 5 2			
		♣ 7 5			
		<u>South</u>			

We need to discard a H loser.

It can be done using spades, either by finesse or by trying to setup spades by ruffing.

Spade finesse is 50%.

Cashing ace of spades and ruffing 3 spades, will succeed if spades are 4-3 (62%), plus when spade king is singleton or doubleton (another 9%)

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		<u>North</u>			Hand 5
		♠ J 9 6			Dealer South
		♥ 9 6 4 2			
		♦ K Q 2			
		♣ Q 7 5			
West	♠ A Q 7 5		♠ K T 4 2	East	
	♥ J T 7		♥ Q 8 3		
	♦ 9		♦ J 6 5 4 3		
	♣ J T 4 3 2		♣ 9		
		♠ 8 3			
		♥ A K 5			
		♦ A T 8 7			
		♣ A K 8 6			
		<u>South</u> (Dealer)			

We have chances in minors but need to discard C or D on the 4th round of spades.

We should discard C. C chance is 36%.

D chance, because of Ten of D presence is much better:

36% for a 3-3 break

25% for when Jack drops after 2 rounds, or when west hold Jxxxx

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

			North				Hand 6
			♠ J T 9 2				Dealer West
			♥ 5 2				
			♦ 9 7 5 2				
			♣ K 5 3				
West	♠ 8 4			♠ A Q 3		East	
	♥ A Q J T 9 6 3			♥ K 7			
	♦ Q 8 3			♦ A K T 4			
	♣ J			♣ Q 9 7 2			
			♠ K 7 6 5				
			♥ 8 4				
			♦ J 6				
			♣ A T 8 6 4				
			South				

We have 2 losers, a C and one spades

Spade is 50% but Jack of D is unlikely to be from KJT !?

D 3-3 break is 36% plus 16% if D is 4-2 with Jack being doubleton, plus when D is 5-1 and 5 cards in west and Jack in the 5 card Jxxxx (another 7%).. Adding small fraction for singleton J, our total chance is about 61%, a clear advantage for D play

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		North	Hand 7	
		♠ A K Q J 5 4	Dealer North	
		♥ A K 5 3		
		♦ 7 6		
		♣ 3		
West	♠ T 7 3 2	♠ 8	East	
	♥ 7 6 4	♥ Q J T 9		
	♦ K 9 5 2	♦ Q 8 3		
	♣ K J	♣ Q 9 7 5 4		
		♠ 9 6		
		♥ 8 2		
		♦ A J T 4		
		♣ A T 8 6 2		
		South		

Ruffing two hearts, rely on person with 3 hearts not to have ten of Spades, this is a 50% chance.

Playing double finesse in D, will only fail if east has both K and Q of D, only 25%. So 75% it will succeed.

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		North	Hand 8
		♠ 8 4	Dealer East
		♥ J 9 5 2	
		♦ A J	
		♣ T 9 7 5 4	
West	♠ A 2	♠ K Q J T 6 5	East
	♥ 8 7 3	♥ A K Q 6	
	♦ 8 7 6 4 2	♦ K Q	
	♣ A Q 3	♣ 8	
		♠ 9 7 3	
		♥ T 4	
		♦ T 9 5 3	
		♣ K J 6 2	
		South	

We have one certain D loser.

C finesse is 50%

H being 3-3 is 36%

We should go with C finesse

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		<u>North</u>		Hand 9	
		♠ 9 7		Dealer South	
		♥ J 6 5 2			
		♦ Q J T 6			
		♣ K Q 4			
West	♠ K Q J 8 5	♠ T 4 3 2	East		
	♥ Q T	♥ 9 7 4 3			
	♦ K 8 5	♦ 4 2			
	♣ 8 6 2	♣ T 7 5			
		♠ A 6			
		♥ A K 8			
		♦ A 9 7 3			
		♣ A J 9 3			
		<u>South</u> (Dealer)			

D finesse is 50%

Rather than rely solely on this, we should play Ace and King of H. If Queen drops, we have our 9th trick and no need for finesse.

If Queen of H doesn't drop, we can take D finesse.

Note we should not play 4 rounds of C as we can't finesse D (we need to be in dummy to finesse D).

Let's Play – Comparing Two Lines of Play

		<u>North</u>		Hand 10	
		♠ 6 5		Dealer West	
		♥ 8 7 2			
		♦ Q T 3			
		♣ K Q J 8 6			
West	♠ A K J T 8 4	♠ Q 9 3	East		
	♥ Q T 4	♥ A J 9 6			
	♦ A K	♦ J 7 6 2			
	♣ 9 3	♣ A 5			
		♠ 7 2			
		♥ K 5 3			
		♦ 9 8 5 4			
		♣ T 7 4 2			
		<u>South</u>			

We have a club loser and a H loser.

Finesse of H is 50%.

We can improve by drawing two rounds trump by playing ace and king

Then two rounds of D, crossing to dummy with Queen pf trump and ruff a D.

If person with Queen of D has singleton D, Qx or Qxx, our jack of D is good for discarding our C loser.

If this doesn't work and Queen doesn't drop, we can always finesse D, nothing is lost.