

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

From start of the hand we count our possible loser in the hand with longer trumps

- Look for *Safest Way* to reduce this to total required number

Our plan to reduce our loser uses 3 main ways:

- Ruffing
- Finessing
- Discarding

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

**Two main advantages playing in a Suit Contract vs a NT contract:**

- **Ruffing defenders winning tricks**
- **Ruffing our losers in dummy**

## Let's go through this process on a sample deal:

♠ A 7 5  
♥ 7 5  
♦ A T 9 5  
♣ A J 6 4

♠ Q 9  
♥ T 9 8 6 4  
♦ 7 6 3  
♣ 8 7 2

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

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

West leads ♥ T against 4 spades

### 1- How many losers in south's hand: 5 (1S+2H+1D+1C)

- Nothing can be done for the spades loser
- One H loser can be ruffed in dummy (drawing trumps should only be done after)
- After drawing 2 rounds of spades, we should finesse ♦ K
  - If D finesse works, we can discard club loser on D and make 11
  - If D finesse fails, we still can discard a club on established D, making 10

## Let's go look at another deal:

♠ K J 6  
♥ 8 4  
♦ A K 7 4  
♣ A Q J 2

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

♠ 7 2  
♥ J 9 6 3 2  
♦ T 9 6  
♣ K T 6

♠ A Q T 8 4  
♥ A K 5  
♦ Q 5 2  
♣ 8 5

## West leads a trump against our grand slam in spades

## How many losers (S? H? D? C?)

- What can we do about H loser?
- What about C loser?
  - Finesse the king
  - Is there any other way?

**“Test a Suit”** means to play a few rounds to discover how the defenders' card lie

**A good declarer will not finesse before exhausting all the other possibilities**

♠ 6 2  
♥ A J 5  
♦ A T 7 4  
♣ T 7 4 2

♠ K T 9 3  
♥ 8 7 4  
♦ J 9 8 3  
♣ J 3

♠ J 7 5  
♥ 6  
♦ K Q 6 5  
♣ A K Q 9 6

♠ A Q 8 4  
♥ K Q T 9 3 2  
♦ 2  
♣ 8 5

You are in H game after East opens 1C. West leads Jack of Clubs and continues with 3 of Clubs, East wins with Q and plays the ace. Your plan?

- 1- How many losers 5 (S? H? D? C?)
- 2- Do you draw trumps first?
- 3- How do you go to dummy to take spades finesse?

## Let's plan to play some Suit contracts

♠ Q J 3  
♥ 8 3  
♦ A Q 6 4  
♣ A T 7 4

♠ A K T 7 4 2  
♥ A T 5 4  
♦ K 2  
♣ 3

West leads ♣ K against your 6S contract. Plan the play.

How many losers? 3 in hearts only. How can we reduce it to 1?

- Ruff 1
- Discard 1 on D winner

Draw 1 round of trumps to start with

You can't draw two rounds of trumps. Why?

## Let's plan to play some Suit contracts

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

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

West leads ♥ K against your 4S contract. Plan the play.

How many losers? 4 (S? H? D? C?) how can we reduce it to 3?

- Can you draw trumps first?
- Would you finesse D?
- How can you use clubs?

You should consider entries in dummy

## Let's plan to play some Suit contracts

♠ K 3  
♥ 9 8 5  
♦ A K 7 6 2  
♣ 8 6 3

♠ A Q J T 6 2  
♥ void  
♦ 8 5 3  
♣ A K J T

West leads ♥ Q against your 6S contract. Plan the play.

How many losers? 2 (S? H? D? C?) how can we reduce it to 1?

- Can you do anything about D loser?
- Would you finesse C?
- Is there another way?

If you want to take unnecessary risk, perhaps you should be playing poker!!

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

## North

♠ A 6 5  
♥ J 7 4 3  
♦ J 4  
♣ T 8 6 3

♠ 8 4  
♥ A K 5  
♦ Q T 6 5  
♣ J 9 5 4

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

## Hand 1

Dealer South

♠ 9 7 2  
♥ Q T 8 2  
♦ 8 7 3  
♣ K Q 2

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

## East

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

♠ A 2  
♥ Q J T 4  
♦ T 7 4  
♣ J 9 7 2

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

## Hand 2

Dealer West

♠ K 5  
♥ 9 7 5  
♦ 9 6 5 2  
♣ A 8 6 3

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

## South

♠ A 8 7  
♥ T 5 3  
♦ A K J 8  
♣ Q T 7

♠ Q T 2  
♥ K Q J 6  
♦ 9 7 5 2  
♣ 8 6

♠ K J 6 4 3  
♥ A 9 4  
♦ Q 6  
♣ A K 4

## Hand 3

Dealer North

♠ 9 5  
♥ 8 7 2  
♦ T 4 3  
♣ J 9 5 3 2

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

## West

♠ A T 4 3  
♥ K Q J T 6  
♦ J 5  
♣ A 6

♠ 5  
♥ A 9 7 4 2  
♦ K 8 3  
♣ J T 9 3

♠ K Q J 8 7 6 2  
♥ -----  
♦ A Q T 4  
♣ 7 5

## Hand 4

Dealer East

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

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

## North

♠ K J 2  
♥ 7 6 4  
♦ A 6 3  
♣ A J T 7

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

♠ A Q T 9 4  
♥ J 8 3  
♦ K 8 4  
♣ K 6

## Hand 5

Dealer South

♠ 7 6 3  
♥ K T 9 5  
♦ Q 7 2  
♣ Q 8 3

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

## East

♠ A 8 6 2  
♥ A 8 7 3  
♦ -----  
♣ A 9 7 4 3

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

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

## Hand 6

Dealer East

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

# How To Plan a Suit Contract

## South

♠ K T 5  
♥ K Q 8 6 2  
♦ A 5  
♣ A K 4

♠ Q 9 8 3  
♥ 7  
♦ Q J T 2  
♣ Q 9 7 3

♠ A J 7  
♥ A J T 9 5 3  
♦ 9 4  
♣ J 5

## Hand 7

Dealer North

♠ 6 4 2  
♥ 4  
♦ K 8 7 6 3  
♣ T 8 6 2