

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

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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

Hand 1

Dealer South

♠ 8 4
♥ A K 5
♦ Q T 6 5
♣ J 9 5 4

♠ 9 7 2
♥ Q T 8 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ K Q 2

♠ K Q J T 3
♥ 9 6
♦ A K 9 2
♣ A 7

How To Plan a Suit Contract

East

♠ T 9 8 4

♥ K 6 3

♦ Q J 8

♣ Q T 4

Hand 2

Dealer West

♠ A 2

♥ Q J T 4

♦ T 7 4

♣ J 9 7 2

♠ K 5

♥ 9 7 5

♦ 9 6 5 2

♣ A 8 6 3

♠ Q J 7 6 3

♥ A 8 2

♦ A K 3

♣ K 5

How To Plan a Suit Contract

South

♠ A 8 7
♥ T 5 3
♦ A K J 8
♣ Q T 7

Hand 3

Dealer North

♠ Q T 2
♥ K Q J 6
♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ 8 6

♠ 9 5
♥ 8 7 2
♦ T 4 3
♣ J 9 5 3 2

♠ K J 6 4 3
♥ A 9 4
♦ Q 6
♣ A K 4

How To Plan a Suit Contract

West

♠ A T 4 3
♥ K Q J T 6
♦ J 5
♣ A 6

Hand 4

Dealer East

♠ 5
♥ A 9 7 4 2
♦ K 8 3
♣ J T 9 3

♠ 9
♥ 8 5 3
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ K Q 8 4 2

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

How To Plan a Suit Contract

North

♠ K J 2
♥ 7 6 4
♦ A 6 3
♣ A J T 7

Hand 5

Dealer South

♠ 8 5
♥ A Q 2
♦ J T 9 5
♣ 9 5 4 2

♠ 7 6 3
♥ K T 9 5
♦ Q 7 2
♣ Q 8 3

♠ A Q T 9 4
♥ J 8 3
♦ K 8 4
♣ K 6

How To Plan a Suit Contract

East

♠ A 8 6 2

♥ A 8 7 3

♦ -----

♣ A 9 7 4 3

Hand 6

Dealer East

♠ K 9

♥ J 9 6 4

♦ K 8 6 2

♣ K Q J

♠ Q T 3

♥ K T 5 2

♦ J T 9 5 4

♣ T

♠ J 7 5 4

♥ Q

♦ A Q 7 3

♣ 8 6 5 2

How To Plan a Suit Contract

South

♠ K T 5
♥ K Q 8 6 2
♦ A 5
♣ A K 4

Hand 7

Dealer North

♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ 7
♦ Q J T 2
♣ Q 9 7 3

♠ 6 4 2
♥ 4
♦ K 8 7 6 3
♣ T 8 6 2

♠ A J 7
♥ A J T 9 5 3
♦ 9 4
♣ J 5