

The Double Finesse

A double finesse is a finesse that's taken against two opposing honour cards:

	Dummy	
	♠AQT	
West		East
♠K98		♠J765
	South	
	♠432	

South is on lead and needs two spade tricks. A double finesse can be taken by leading a low spade to dummy's ♠T. If East shows up with either the ♠J or ♠K, South can take a second spade finesse upon regaining the lead.

This is superior to finessing the ♠Q whenever West has both the king and jack.

We are hoping to lose only one trick by playing the LHO for both or one missing honour.

In the following examples we are looking to make 2 tricks from our combined holdings

As above, we are playing for a position commonly referred to as '**split honours**'.

What this means is that we hope that the outstanding high cards are either both in one hand or (more likely) split between the defenders.

A J 10

4 3 2

Here we lead towards the A J 10 and if West plays low put in the J or 10. We then return to hand and lead towards the remaining A J, covering whichever card West plays.

J 10 9

A 3 2

This time we set off with the J and return to hand to play the 10 to repeat the finesse.

While the simple finesse has a 50% chance of success; the double finesse (to win 2 tricks) is closer to 76%

It is your lead from dummy, how will you win all six tricks?

Dummy

♠ 8 7 3

♥ A Q 10

West

♠ 9 6 2

♥ K J 8

East

♠ K J 5

♥ 7 6 3

South (you)

♠ A Q 10

♥ 9 5 2

1. *double finesse* in spades (play toward the ♠T)
2. *double finesse* in hearts (play toward the ♥T)
3. *finesse* in spades (play toward the ♠Q)
4. *finesse* in hearts (play toward the ♥Q)
5. cash your two aces (either one first)