

Problems To Solve:

1

♠ 4 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ A K 5
♣ A Q J 7 4

♠ K 9 7
♥ 6 2
♦ J 8 7 4 3
♣ 9 6 3

What should West do?

South is in 4 ♠.

East has bid hearts and West leads the top of his doubleton. East plays the ♥ K, ♥ A and ♥ Q.

Declarer ruffs the third round with the ♠ J.

2 Same contract and play as in (1)

♠ A 6 3
♥ 7 5 2
♦ A K 3
♣ A Q J 4

♠ K 9 7
♥ 8 3
♦ J 8 6 5 2
♣ 8 7 3

What should West do at trick 3?

3

♠ 9 3
♥ 6 5 2
♦ A K Q
♣ K Q J 8 4

♠ K 10 6
♥ 10 3
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ 9 6 3 2

Declarer ruffs with the jack.

What should West do?

South is in 2 ♠

East has bid hearts and West leads the ten to his partner's king.

East plays the ♣ A and continues with the ♥ A and ♥ Q

4

♠ 5
 ♥ 7 5 2
 ♦ Q 10 6 4
 ♣ A K 8 7 3

♠ K J 9 8
 ♥ K 6 4
 ♦ 9 3
 ♣ Q J 9 5

West leads a small trump against 4 ♥
 Declarer wins with the jack in his hand and plays
 the ♠ Q
 Should West cover?

5 After this auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	4♠

At West, what do you lead from:

- (a) ♠ A K 5 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A K J 5 2
 (b) ♠ K 7 4 ♥ Q 6 2 ♦ Q 7 ♣ A K J 6 3

6 South, dealer, opened 4 ♥ and everyone passed. What do you lead from:

- (a) ♠ Q 10 4 ♥ Q 10 6 3 ♦ 5 ♣ A Q 8 6 4
 (b) ♠ Q 10 6 ♥ Q J 10 5 ♦ 7 ♣ A Q J 7 4

Answers:

- 1 Not overruff. The king will take a trick anyway, but if partner turns up with the ten, the ♠ K 9 7 combination will take two tricks, so long as West does not overruff.
- 2 Not overruff. The position is fundamentally the same as the previous example. Though the king is under the ace, it cannot fail to make a trick now that the jack is out of the way.
- 3 Overruff. East's ♣ A is obviously a singleton. West should give him a ruff. East will return a fourth heart, allowing West to overruff again with the ten. If declarer ruffs high, the ten will take a trick later. The reason for overruffing is that West wants to be on lead to play a club.
- 4 No. The next trump lead must come from East, who is marked with the ♠ A.
- 5 (a) One of the top trumps, intending to lead two more rounds. Declarer will clearly find ruffing values in dummy and the defence should limit him to as few trump tricks as possible. There is a temptation to lead a top club, but it must be resisted. Dummy may have a void, and if so, the initiative will immediately pass to declarer.
- (b) A small trump. The reasoning is the same as above. The bidding shrieks of ruffing values in dummy, and trumps must be attacked at once.

6 (a) A small spade. The thoughtless lead would be the singleton diamond. West does not require a ruff. He expects to collect two trump tricks, and probably the ♣ A. To defeat the contract he needs one more trick, and spades seem to offer the best chance. If partner can get in at all, the contract will almost certainly go down, an additional reason for not looking for a ruff that can only materialise if partner has an entry.

(b) The queen of trumps. All the reasons in (a) apply here, but West can safely look at the table before committing himself. Time is on his side.