

Tidbit1

“Play the High Card from the short side first”

Interpretation: This is a safeguard measure to ensure that declarer ends up in the right hand at the right time, for example, when she has to draw several rounds of the opponents' trumps. It is also a most important step to avoid blocking her access to a hand that has a long suit (side), but minimal entries.

Examples:

♠ 8 7 4 3	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">NORTH</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td><td style="padding: 2px; font-size: 2em;">13</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td><td style="padding: 2px;">SOUTH</td><td style="padding: 2px;">T</td></tr> </table>	W	NORTH	E	E	13	S	S	SOUTH	T	♠ A K 9
W		NORTH	E								
E		13	S								
S		SOUTH	T								
♥ K J 10 5	♥ A Q										
♦ 10 4	♦ J 9 7 6										
♣ 10 8 6	♣ A K 9 5										

One example of the second situation is illustrated in the hand above. East was in 3NT and received a heart lead. East must be sure to win the first trick with the AH not the QH and then overtake the QH with the KH in dummy in order to make four tricks in the suit.

(Exercise 1: Declarer needs one more trick to make her 3NT contract. Which other suit would seem to be the safest bet for winning that extra trick and why?).

BD: 17	♠ AT54	Dir: N
	♥ A852	Vul: Nil
	♦ A54	
	♣ Q3	
♠ 8		♠ KQJ6
♥ JT96		♥ Q73
♦ QT876		♦ 2
♣ KJ9		♣ AT852
	♠ 9732	
	♥ K4	
	♦ KJ93	
	♣ 764	

Here is a recent hand which provides another example of the second situation. East was in 1NT and received a very friendly club lead. She must be careful to play the JC from dummy because if she plays the 9C and then wins the QC with the AC the suit becomes blocked and she has no certain entry back to her long clubs.

(Exercise 2: if declarer does play the 9C from dummy and North plays the QC how could declarer unblock the suit?)