

April 24 2011

1  
 ♠ K103  
 ♥ 986  
 ♦ J10943  
 ♣ 76  
 ♠ Q874  
 ♥ Q1072  
 ♦ 65  
 ♣ Q84  
 ♠ A962  
 ♥ J5  
 ♦ 872  
 ♣ K1095  
 ♠ J5  
 ♥ AK43  
 ♦ AKQ  
 ♣ AJ32

Dealer: North			
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♥ 2

South wins the opening lead and plays the top diamonds. Can South get to dummy to cash 2 more diamonds?

If South leads the jack of spades ("high from the short hand,") West should duck. Covering would guarantee an entry to dummy for declarer, regardless of who holds the spade ace. East should also duck (unless South plays the king from dummy.) Now South can never get to dummy.

But South has a play that is almost guaranteed to work. Lead a LOW spade from hand. When West plays second-hand low, South plays the 10 from dummy. If East ducks, South is in dummy to play the diamonds. If East wins, the king of spades becomes an entry to dummy.

If West had x-ray vision, West could play the queen of spades when South led low from hand, foiling South's plan. But it is highly unlikely that West would rise with the queen in the given scenario.

2  
 ♠ J106  
 ♥ 7643  
 ♦ K983  
 ♣ 76  
 ♠ 2  
 ♥ AK10  
 ♦ Q542  
 ♣ J9532  
 ♠ K984  
 ♥ QJ8  
 ♦ A10  
 ♣ AQ104  
 ♠ AQ753  
 ♥ 952  
 ♦ J76  
 ♣ K8

Dealer: South			
West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♠ 5

North should play 10 of spades, lowest of equals, on the first trick. If East ducks, North continues spades. East does win a spade trick, but South's spades are established when South wins the club king...down one.

East should win the king of spades at the first trick to give the defense a chance to err. East gets to dummy and takes the club finesse, losing to South. If South then takes the ace and queen of spades, East makes 4NT with 4 clubs, 2 spades, 3 hearts and a diamond.

South should play his partner for the jack of spades. Wouldn't East have played the jack at trick one if he had it? When in with club king, South should lead a LOW spade. The defense runs the spades for down one.