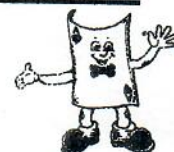


SECOND HAND LOW



- "Second hand low" when a low card is led from dummy or declarer.
- "Second hand low" is a saying for the *defenders*. Declarer can do whatever he wants.
- "Second hand low" because "aces were made to take kings and queens."
- "Second hand low" because partner still has a chance to win the trick.
- "Second hand low" means really low – usually your *lowest* card.
- "Second hand low" quickly so you don't give away information about your cards to declarer. (Bluffing through your behavior is never allowed in bridge. If you want to bluff, play poker.)

FINESSES – DECLARING AND DEFENDING

EXERCISE 1: Declarer finesses by leading toward possible tricks. As declarer, how would you play each suit pictured to maximize your tricks in the suit?

EXAMPLE A

Dummy

♠A 3 2



♠K J 7

Declarer

EXAMPLE B

Dummy

♠A Q



♠7 5

Declarer

EXAMPLE C

Dummy

♠Q 4 3



♠7 5 2

Declarer

EXAMPLE D

Dummy

♠K 3



♠7 5

Declarer

A) Try for 3 tricks by leading from North toward the ♠K J and playing the ♠J.

B) Lead from South toward North and put in the ♠Q.

C) Your only (small) hope is that West has both the ♠A and ♠K. Lead from South toward the ♠Q.

D) Lead from South toward the ♠K.

DEFENDING AGAINST A FINESSE – SECOND HAND LOW

EXERCISE 2: How should West play when the bolded ♥5 is led by South?

EXAMPLE E

♥K 6 2

You hold
♥A 10 4 3



Partner
♥J 8 7

♥Q 9 5

EXAMPLE F

♥K J

You hold
♥A 10 4 3



Partner
♥Q 8 7 2

♥9 6 5

EXAMPLE G

♥A Q J

You hold
♥K 10 4 3



Partner
♥8 7 2

♥9 6 5

E) Save the ♥A to capture the ♥Q and win 2 tricks. Bridge players should appreciate the value of high spot cards like the 10 and 9. West must save the ♥10 because declarer could finesse the ♥9 on the way back. "Second hand low" means LOW. Play the ♥3.

F) Play the ♥3 smoothly to make declarer guess who has the ♥A and who has the ♥Q.

G) You can't stop declarer from finessing the ♥Q and ♥J but you can make things harder for declarer by playing low. First, declarer has to hope the finesse is working; second, declarer has to get back to the South hand to repeat the finesse. Playing your king only makes declarer happy.