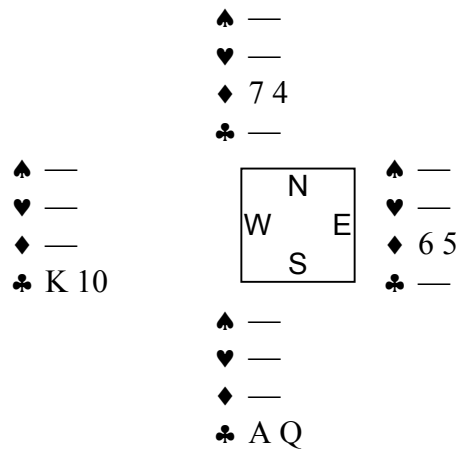


Overview

You've done what you can -- but you still have unwelcome losers on the hand. Now you need help from the defenders to eliminate those losers.

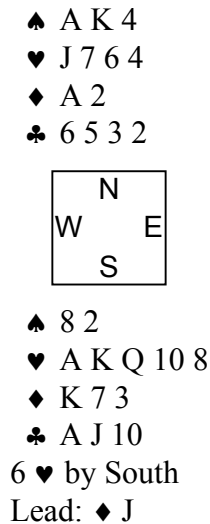
Hand 1

You are declarer, South. It's trick 12. You want both tricks 12 and 13.



If the lead is in Dummy, you will win one trick and lose the other. If the lead is East's or yours, same thing -- you will win one trick and lose the other. But if the lead is West's, you win both tricks. If you can visualize this ending, you may be able to play Trick 11 so that West wins the trick, and must lead to Trick 12. Or you can be lucky and stumble into it ... but it's better to be able to see the possibility and plan for it.

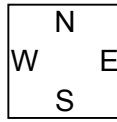
Hand 2



Not a bad contract; if trumps break no worse than 3-1 you can ruff your ♦ loser in Dummy. You have a 75 percent chance of winning two ♣ tricks if you lead the suit twice from Dummy; losing two ♣ tricks only if the ♣ KQ are both with West. And if they are both with West, why wasn't the opening lead the ♣ K? **BUT you can do better.** There is a 100% chance you can make twelve tricks with a 2-2 trump split, absent a ♦ void. See it?

Hand 2 play

♠ A K 4
♥ J 7 6 4
♦ A 2
♣ 6 5 3 2



♠ 8 2
♥ A K Q 10 8
♦ K 7 3
♣ A J 10

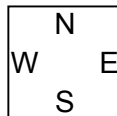
6 ♥ by South

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♦ J	<u>A</u>	5	3
2. N	♥ 4	3	<u>A</u>	2
3. S	<u>♥ K</u> ¹	5	6	9
4. S	♠ 2	3	<u>A</u>	6
5. N	<u>♠ K</u>	5	8	9
6. N	♠ 4	7	<u>♥ Q</u> ²	10
7. S	<u>♦ K</u>	4	2	6
8. S	♦ 7 ³	10	<u>♥ 7</u>	8

1. 2-2 trump split, now you are sure of the contract. Carry out your plan.
2. Eliminate Spades from your hand and Dummy
3. Eliminate Diamonds from your hand and Dummy, lead is in Dummy

Hand 2 after 8 tricks

♠ —
♥ J
♦ —
♣ 6 5 3 2



♠ —
♥ 10 8
♦ —
♣ A J 10

Lead a low ♣ from Dummy, cover what East plays.

If West wins, West must lead:

- (1) a ♦ you can ruff in Dummy while discarding your losing ♣
- (2) a ♠ you can ruff in Dummy while discarding your losing ♣
- or (3) a ♣ into your ♣ AJ tenace, and you have no losing ♣.

If East played the ♣ K or ♣ Q, you won with your ♣ A. Now lead the ♣ J, which loses to the ♣ honor that is still out.

The last three tricks are yours; two trumps and the ♣ 10 are all winners.

"The squeeze is the most complicated of all expert plays. There are dozens of squeeze positions, and scholars have written whole books on the squeeze."

-- so why address squeezes in a lecture for intermediate and novice players?

"It is quite unnecessary to know all these positions. ... The important thing is to bid accurately and play accurately in the thousands of fundamental positions." -- both quotes from Alfred Sheinwold, *5 Weeks to Winning Bridge*.

South Deals

♠ 3	♠ Q 10 9 6	♠ 5 4 2			
♥ A K J 10	♥ Q 9 6 4	♥ 8 2			
♦ 9 6 4	♦ K 8	♦ Q J 10 5 3 2			
♣ Q J 9 5 2	♣ A K 8	♣ 10 7			
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ A K J 8 7				
	♥ 7 5 3				
	♦ A 7				
	♣ 6 4 3				

West North East South

Pass 2 NT Pass 1 ♠
 Pass 4 ♠

All pass

4 ♠ by South

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. W	♥ <u>K</u>	4	8	3
2. W	♥ <u>A</u>	6	2	5
3. W	♥ J	Q	♠ 2	7
4. E	♦ Q	7	4	<u>K</u>

If Dummy does not cover at Trick 3, West wins and leads a fourth ♥; this is no gain for Declarer.

At Tricks 5 and 6, Declarer draws the remaining trumps; West discards a low ♦. Trick 7, Declarer cashes the ♦ A.

How does Declarer avoid losing the third ♣ trick? If West is the only defender who can take the third ♣ trick, and also the only defender who can win the fourth ♥ trick, West will be squeezed. Watch:

♠ —	♠ Q 10	♠ —			
♥ 10	♥ 9	♥ —			
♦ —	♦ —	♦ J 10 5 3			
♣ Q J 9 5 2	♣ A K 8	♣ 10 7			
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ J 8 7				
	♥ —				
	♦ —				
	♣ 6 4 3				

Trick 8, low Spade to Dummy's Q; West plays a low ♣; East a low ♦ (East knows the only ♦s remaining are in her hand, because she has been counting). Trick 9, Dummy's ♠ 10 to Declarer's ♠ Q; West plays a low ♣; East a low ♦. Trick 10, South leads the ♠ 8. What's West to do?

a) discard the ♥ 10; Dummy discards the ♣ 8 and wins the last three tricks with the ♣ A, ♣ K, and ♥ 9.

b) discard the ♣ 9; Dummy discards the ♥ 9 and wins the last three tricks with the ♣ A, ♣ K, and ♣ 8.

There is much more to endplays and squeezes; we will look more at them December 12 and 26. For now, a quiz:

East Deals

Quiz Hand 1

<p>♠ A K 5 ♥ K 10 8 ♦ 7 4 ♣ Q 9 6 3 2</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ 4 ♥ A 9 4 3 ♦ A 8 2 ♣ A K J 7 5</p>	
N						
W E						
S						
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			
		1 ♣	Pass			
3 ♣ ¹	Pass	6 ♣	All pass			
1. limit raise						
6 ♣ by East						
Lead: ♦ Q						

How does Declarer avoid losing both a ♥ trick and a ♦ trick? Plan the play, trick by trick.

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 |

East Deals

Quiz Hand 2

<p>♠ Q 8 7 6 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ 8 7 5 2 ♣ 10 4</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p>♠ A K ♥ A 9 4 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ A Q 6 2</p>	
N						
W E						
S						
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			
		3 NT	All pass			
3 NT by East						
Lead: ♥ 5						

Where are Declarer's tricks? How will he get them?

If ♦s break 3-2, there are 8 winners in hand, but no way to get to Dummy's ♠ Q.

Play ♥ 3 from Dummy; East plays the ♥ Q. What now?

Plan the play, trick by trick.

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 |

Quiz Hand 1 N-S hands:

North: ♠ J 10 7 6 2, ♥ Q 7 2, ♦ K 9 5 3, ♣ 8

South: ♠ Q 9 8 3, ♥ J 6 5, ♦ Q J 10 6, ♣ 10 4

Quiz Hand 2 N-S hands:

North: ♠ J 10 9 2, ♥ Q 10, ♦ 4 3, ♣ J 9 8 5 3

South: ♠ 5 4 3, ♥ K J 8 5 2, ♦ J 10 6, ♣ K 7