

SELECTING a STRATEGY

		QJ53	DEALER – 1 Diamond		
		KQ		4 Spades	
		AQ109			
		AJ9			
K82				74	Pass
J1097	Pass			A654	Pass
75	Pass			6432	
K874				Q103	
		A1096			
		832	1 Spade		
		KJ8	Pass		
		652			

Opening lead: J of hearts. East won the opening lead with the Ace. How should East proceed with the defense? East returned a passive heart. Declarer won in dummy with the King and took the trump finesse. West won with the King and shifted to a low club. Declarer won the Ace of clubs, drew the remaining trumps and played four rounds of diamonds, discarding a club from hand. He conceded one club and claimed, losing one Spade, one Heart and one Club.

East should see the danger of the diamond suit and the need to win two club Tricks if the defense is to prevail. East must assume West has the King and an entry and shift to a low club at trick two. When West wins the King of spades, a club through dummy allows the defense to score two club tricks, one spade and one heart trick. Down one.

Both defenders should be studying the dummy and thinking “What will declarer do with his losers? How many tricks can we hope to take?”

The dummy is the key to deciding active versus passive defense. Think LSD (“Long suit? Short suit? Dead dummy?”)

Why is defense so difficult? Declarer sees all 26 of his side’s cards. He’s in complete control of his line of play. But the defenders have a major obstacle – their partner. They must cooperate with each other to try to control the line of play.

J107 1 NT
A2 Pass
J7532
874

9642		853	Pass
63	Pass	854	Pass
10984	Pass	AQ6	
1062		AKJ9	

AKQ
KQJ1097
K DEALER – 1 Heart
Q53 4 Hearts

Opening lead: 10 of diamonds. East wins the opening lead with the Ace as declarer follows with the King. How should East continue? East cashed the K of clubs. Bad! When West followed with the 2, East shifted to a spade. Declarer won, cashed the K of hearts and led to the Ace. Using his only dummy entry, declarer led a club, East won the Ace and returned another spade. Declarer won, drew the last trump and claimed, losing ONLY 2 clubs and one diamond. How would you have defended?

Declarer has only one dummy entry. As long as East stays passive and never touches clubs, declarer can only lead clubs once from dummy. Struggle and try his best, he must lose 3 clubs and one diamond.

East should realize his clubs aren't going anywhere. There's no long suit in dummy to discard any of them. If the Q of clubs was in the dummy, then East is correct to cash the King of clubs. East can see dummy and wait for his club winners.

Articles I recommend: August Bulletin, Page 45 – Static vs. dynamic evaluation

August Bulletin, Page 46 – The Importance of Routine
