

NEVER SAY DIE

So often, we are just sitting there, hoping and waiting to be declarer. We get restless and lose focus when we become the defenders, instead of thinking of how we can beat the declarer.

		7543	
		AQ102	
		854	
		KQ	
10			J92
K9854			763
KQ2			A1073
6543			872
S	N	AKQ86	
1S	3S	J	
4S		J96	
		AJ109	

Opening lead: D King

West leads D King, East encourages and West continues with D Queen. One more D to East's Ace. What should East do now?

Can West have the C Ace? If he did, he should have cashed it before leading his third D to East.

When it looks as though there are no more legitimate tricks to be taken for your side, look for some illegitimate ones, especially when trumps in dummy are crummy.

East should now lead his thirteenth Diamond. If South discards something, West trumps with the S 10. If South ruffs high with Spade Ace, King or Queen, then East's S Jack is promoted into a trick for down one.

If East had not thought this all through carefully and had returned a Club at trick # 4, declarer will now be able to draw trumps and claim.

RULE OF 40

		J10	
		J987	
		A32	
		KQJ10	
98765			432
A3			KQ102
8765			K4
98			7654
		AKQ	
S	N	654	
		QJ109	
		A32	
1N	2C		
2D	3N		

West leads S 9. East plays the S 2 and S wins the trick with the Ace. S leads the D Queen...small, small and East wins with D King. Over to East to do some arithmetic.

West's 9 was top of nothing. Even if W had held Spade 97532, it would still have been right to lead the S 9, showing top of nothing. Don't lead fourth best unless you have at least a Jack in the suit.

Deduction by East: S has Spades: Ace, King and Queen.

If West has the Club Ace, it is never running away and one trick in Clubs will not beat this contract. Thus Spades are out, Diamonds are out of the question since declarer led this suit ("Confucius say both sides lead same suit, somebody crazy!" That leaves Hearts.

So WHICH Heart should E lead now??? If E leads the H King, West will have to overtake it with the Ace, in order to unblock the suit. **East has carefully done the RULE OF 40.**

North had 15-17 HCP. Give him an average of 16 HCP. Dummy has 12 HCP. East has 8 HCP. That makes for a total of 36 HCP. West can only have 4 HCP. 4 HCP makes up a what???????? "An Ace" I hear you say!! When you need partner to have a specific card to beat the contract, pray a lot and play her to have that card. East leads the H 2 now and West wins it and leads a H back. EW take 4 Heart tricks plus the D King. Down one.

Use the Rule of 40 every single time you are in third seat after partner has led and you are defending and also BEFORE you make an opening lead. Subtract the total number of points known from the number 40 and that will tell you how many points partner can have.

BID THESE HANDS

In all of the following cases, you are responder to the strong opener. Answers are below.

A	B	C	D
K1087 Q432 J108 54	63 A10965 K864 54	63 A10965 K864 54	Q105 A1098 10874 65
2C - 2D* Waiting 2N - 3C* Stayman	2C - 2D 2N - 3D* Transfer	2N - 3D* Transfer	2C - 2D 2N - 3C 3S - 3N

E	F	G
K8754 A43 K32 32	95 6543 987 965	952 6543 98 Q652

2C - 2D 2H - 3H	2C - 2D 2S - 3C* *2nd negative NO fit. Bid the cheapest other minor	2C - 2D 2S - 4S Here, you have a fit. That is huge.
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In all of the following cases, you are responder to a 1NT opener. Answers are below.

H	I	J
KJ10763 K76 54 98	KJ10763 AJ6 65 74	KQ QJ10764 AKJ9 6
1N - 2H 2S - 3S* Inviting game	1N - 4H* Texas Transfer 4S	1N - 4D 4H - 4N* Key Card Blackwood because we have agreed on a suit

JACOBY 2NT: FORCING RAISE IN A MAJOR

Jacoby 2NT is an **ESSENTIAL** convention that **MUST** be added to your repertoire. You cannot live without it.

When partner opens with 1 of a major, your response of 2NT shows 13 or more points (including distribution) and at least 4 card support for partner's major.

We do not use it merely to make sure we get to game in the major, since 13 opposite 13 will almost always get to game. We use it to help us to get to slams with only 26 points when magic exists. FITS, not misfits. And Singletons in the right places.

The following is merely a quickie summary. There is a part of Jacoby 2NT that many do not know and that is when opener bids a suit at the 4 level. This shows another 5 card suit (other than the previously mentioned major), headed by 2 of the top 3 honours. e.g. If partner then has Kxx in that suit, he knows that we now have a second fit in addition to the first fit. These lands play wonderfully well.

See the hand under the summary and see how you would bid this.

1H 2NT

- 3C = s'ton or void in C
- 3D = s'ton or void in D
- 3H 16+ pts + NO s'ton or void
- 3S = s'ton or void in S
- 4C GOOD 5 card C suit
- 4D GOOD 5 card D suit

- 4H 13-15 + NO s'ton or void -
-
-

1S 2NT

- 3C = s'ton or void
- 3D = s'ton or void
- 3H = s'ton or void
- 3S 16+ pts + NO s'ton or void
- 4C GOOD 5 card C suit
- 4D GOOD 5 card D suit
- 4H GOOD 5 card H suit
- 4S 13-15 + NO s'ton or void

North

AQ42
K6
A9753
AJ

South

K10653
A4
10
KQ1095

Dealer is South

S	N
1S	2N
4C*	4N
5H**	???

*Note that the bid of 4C does not deny a singleton or a void. If you are promising a second 5 card suit, you **MUST** also have (guaranteed because there are only 13 cards in your hand) a singleton or a void. This 4 level bid overrides the singleton or void rule.

** 5 H showed 2 key cards excluding the Q of Spades.

Here is the answer. Did you come up with this one?

North knows that there are 5 Spade tricks at least.

2 Heart tricks

1 D trick at least

and 5 C tricks because the 4C bid showed a 5 card suit headed by 2 of the top three honours.

That's 13 tricks.

Bid 7NT now.

Good bidding if you got there!