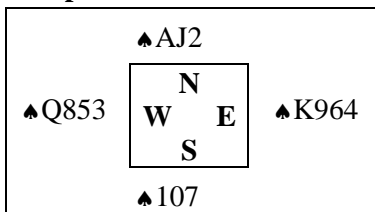




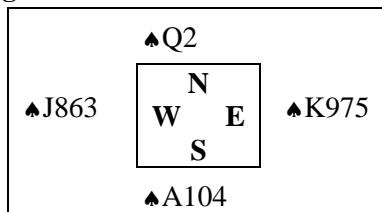
Second Hand Plays Low

When a defender leads a low card declarer's normal reaction is to play a low card from dummy so as to take advantage of the high cards in his own hand.

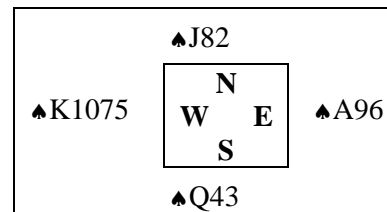
Examples where Second Hand Low guarantees an extra trick



West leads ♠3. Dummy plays ♠2. East must play ♠K to win the trick. Now ♠AJ make 2 tricks because declarer used the power of his 10.



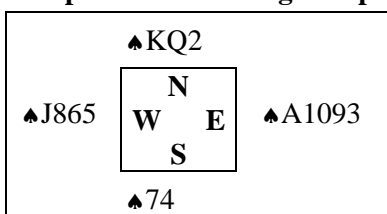
West leads ♠3. Dummy plays ♠2. If East saves ♠K to beat ♠Q later ♠10 scores. If East plays ♠K to force out ♠A ♠Q becomes a winner.



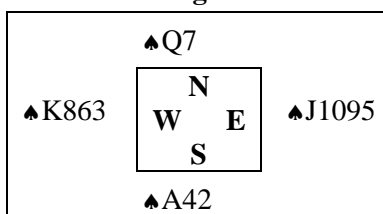
West leads ♠5 dummy plays ♠2 East wins ♠A, and now ♠J8 opposite ♠Q4 must make one trick.

Note that in these examples playing the high card from dummy would mean making one less trick – the honours in the South hand support North's cards

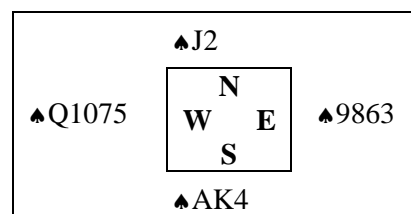
Examples where it is right to play Second Hand High



West leads ♠5. If dummy plays low East will win cheaply with ♠9. Rise with ♠Q to force out ♠A.



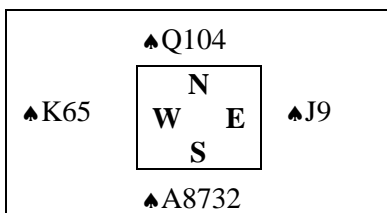
West leads ♠3. The only chance of making a trick with ♠Q is to play it now.



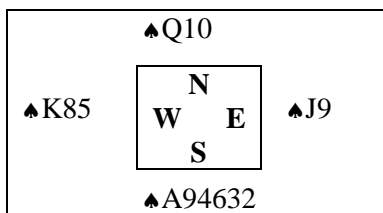
West leads ♠5. If you do not try ♠J now it will never make a trick.

Here South has either no honour cards, or Sure Tricks – there is nothing to support North's cards.

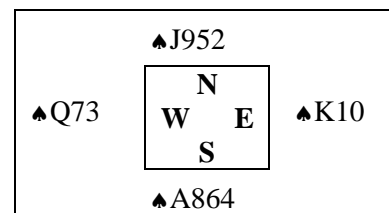
Second Hand Low in Defence



South leads ♠A, then ♠2. West knows that with ♠AJxxx South would finesse. Playing low makes him guess which card to play.



Spades are trump, and South leads ♠2. Again, he cannot have ♠J and West should play low smoothly to give him a guess.

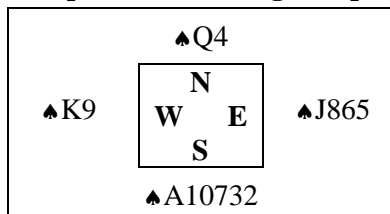


If South leads ♠4 West should grit his teeth and play low to ensure 2 tricks

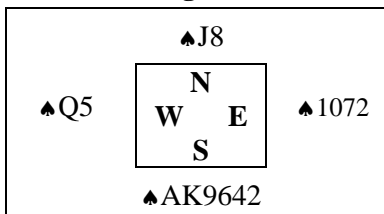


Second Hand Plays Low

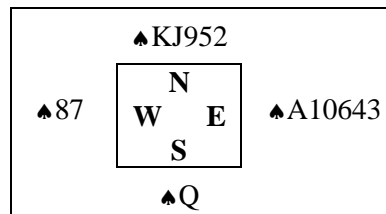
Examples when it is right to play Second Hand High in Defence



This time if South leads low towards ♠ Q West should take ♠ K – or he will not make it.



If this is trump and declarer leads towards ♠ J West had better take his queen.



If declarer leads low from dummy towards a singleton honour it is best to play high!

It is easier for declarer than defenders to know when it is right to play Second Hand Low.

When a defender is not sure what to do he should play low – unless he has already told declarer that he has the important card by hesitating. Make declarer guess and he will guess wrong at least half the time!