



Defence: The Reverse Attitude Signal

Defenders can **signal** to one another by the size of card they play (and nothing else!)

The most common type of signal is a **high-low signal**:

When partner leads an honour, you can **encourage** him to continue the suit by playing a **low** card
or **discourage** the suit led and suggest a **switch** by playing a high card.

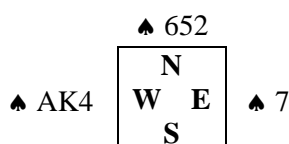
Low encourages, high discourages

We signal when **partner** leads an honour card, **not** when a high card is led from declarer's hand or dummy

Make **encouraging attitude signals** ("partner go on with this suit") with the **lowest card you can afford**

Make **discouraging attitude signals** ("partner, try a switch to another suit") by playing your **highest card**.

Sometimes you do not hold ideal cards for your signal: – partner has to "examine the pips" before he can read it



South plays in 4♥.

West leads ♠A.

The play to the first trick is ♠A - ♠2 - ♠7 - ♠3

West can see all the spades smaller than the 7

Therefore the 7 is East's lowest spade

In this case the 7 is encouraging

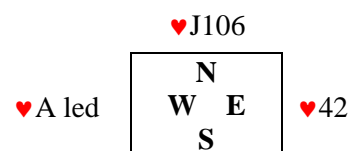
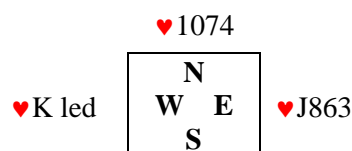
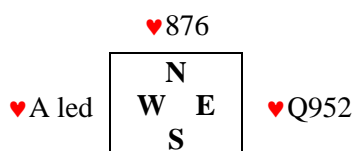
Once again there is a difference between Leading and Third Hand Play:

Leading a low card promises honours **Signalling** with a high card denies honours

There are two possible reasons for encouraging partner to continue the suit led:

You have an honour in the suit and hope to take several tricks there

You have a doubleton in the suit and hope to ruff the third round



In all 3 examples South plays in 4♠. West leads a heart honour.

Here East plays ♥2 asking partner to continue with ♥K and another to ♥Q

East plays ♥3 so if West has ♥KQx he will continue with ♥Q and another (when he gets on lead)

East plays ♥2, encouraging partner. If West continues with ♥K and another he can ruff the third round

When partner leads an ace against a trump contract play low from a doubleton to encourage him to continue the suit. We can trump the third round

The Reverse Attitude Discard

When you have cannot follow suit you have to throw a card from another suit – to make a **discard**

You can take the opportunity to tell partner where your high cards are

Throw a low card to say "I have some honours in this suit"

Throw a high card to say "I have nothing in this suit"