



## Essential Defence

### Third Hand High – Second Hand Low

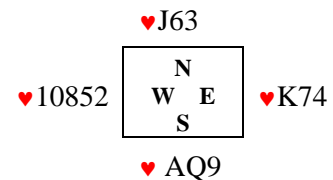
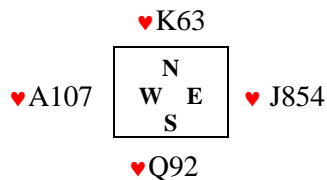
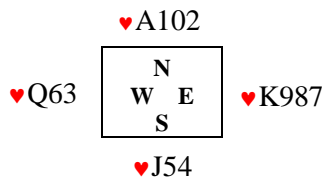
#### Rules for the Opening Lead:

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1) Top of a sequence   | (QJ103; KQJ74; KJ1094) |
| 2) Ace from AK   | (AK74; AKQ64; AK6)     |
| 3) Low from an honour  | (K74; Q962; KJ63)      |
| 4) 2 <sup>ND</sup> Highest with no honour<br>(highest nest time) | (954; 7632; 83)        |

#### Rule for Second Hand

“Second Hand Plays Low”

When declarer leads a low card from his own hand or dummy and you are next to play – play a low card too. If you play a high card “on air” you destroy the value of partner’s high cards.



South leads ♥4

What happens if West plays ♥Q?  
And if he plays ♥3?

South leads ♥2

What happens if West plays ♥A?  
And if he plays ♥7?

North leads ♥3

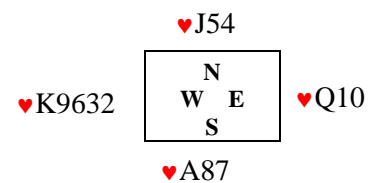
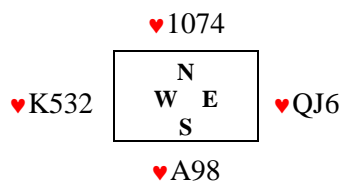
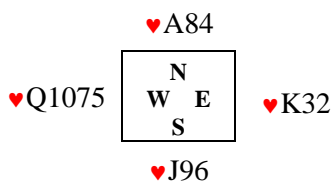
What happens if East plays ♥K?  
And if he plays ♥4?

*Second In – Leave it to Him*

#### Rules for Third Hand

“Third Hand Plays High”

When partner has already played low it is your job to try to win the trick, or force out declarer’s high card. For Third Hand “High” means **lower** of two equal cards, **lowest** of three or more equal cards



West leads ♥5. Dummy plays ♥4.

What happens if East plays ♥2?  
And if he plays ♥K?

West leads ♥2

If it goes ♥10-♥J-♥A who has ♥Q?  
If it went ♥10-♥Q-♥A who has ♥J?

West leads ♥3. Dummy plays ♥4

What happens if East plays ♥Q?  
And if he plays ♥10?

*Third Man - Does What He Can*



## Essential Defence

### Rule for Fourth Hand

Win the trick if you can!

### Contrast Leading and Third Hand Play

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>We lead</b></p> <p>top of a sequence<br/>low from an honour</p> | <p><b>Third Hand Plays</b></p> <p>lowest of a sequence<br/>an honour if it can beat dummy's card</p> |
|---|--|

## Cover an Honour with an Honour

The best use for an honour card is to beat the card immediately below it in rank:

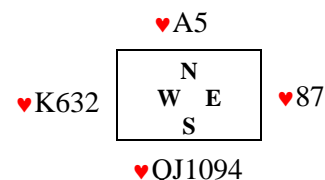
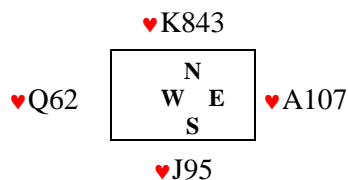
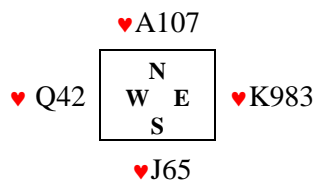
*Aces were Meant for Killing Kings*

*And Kings for Killing Queens*

So when declarer leads an honour Card the Rule for Second Hand Play changes:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>When declarer leads <b>Low</b></p> <p>When declarer leads <b>an Honour</b></p> | <p>Second Hand Plays Low</p> <p>Second Hand Covers with another Honour</p> <p><b><i>But only if covering may promote lower cards into winners</i></b></p> |
|---|---|

### Covering in Front of Dummy



If South leads ♥5. West plays ♥2.  
 If South leads ♥J West plays ♥Q  
 How many tricks does declarer make?  
 How many if West plays the wrong card?

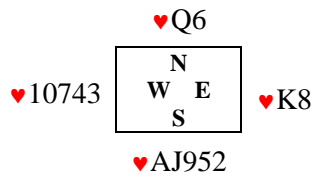
If South leads ♥5 West plays ♥2.  
 If South leads ♥J-West plays ♥Q  
 How many tricks does declarer make?

West plays low on any lead  
 He can see that ♥K will win  
 the third round once dummy  
 has played ♥A

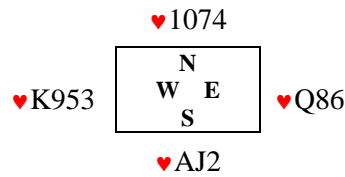


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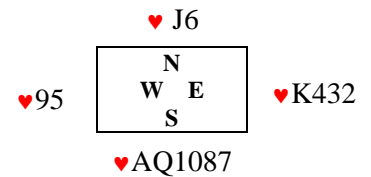
### Covering Dummy's Card



If dummy leads ♥6. East plays ♥8  
 If Dummy leads ♥Q East covers with ♥K  
 How many tricks?



If dummy leads ♥4. East plays ♥6  
 If dummy leads ♥10 East covers with ♥Q



This time East plays low on ♥J (Especially if South bid hearts)  
 His ♥K will be a winner on the fourth round no matter what

### Rule:

*Cover an unsupported honour*

### Exceptions

Unless: you can see your card will win a trick later if you keep it  
 you know partner can have no card to promote

### Rules of Thumb

*Cover an Honour with an Honour unless you have 4 or more cards in the suit*  
*Do not cover Honours in the Trump Suit*