

What to Discard

The first discard by either defender is an attitude signal. Standard: High=Encouraging, Low=Discouraging. An honor (Jack or higher) discard shows a sequence (throw the top). Do not signal with cards you can't afford, or cards that would unguard a suit. Sometimes we can't afford an encouraging discard, so we discourage in a different suit and hope partner gets the message. Examples of **SIGNALS**:

A) AQ1098 – discard the 10. B) 10642 – discard the 2. C) QJ10982 – discard the queen.

On D,E and F, you can't afford to signal with a high card (or any card in E and F).

<p>Dummy D</p> <p>♥KJ3</p> <p></p> <p style="text-align: right;">You</p> <p style="text-align: right;">♥AQ102</p>	<p>Dummy E</p> <p>♠AKJ5</p> <p></p> <p style="text-align: right;">You</p> <p style="text-align: right;">♠Q1082</p>	<p>Dummy F</p> <p>♥A76</p> <p></p> <p style="text-align: right;">You</p> <p style="text-align: right;">♥KQ9</p>
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Keep parity with dummy. Also keep a suit declarer has shown in the bidding.

Examples:

G	Dummy	
	♦AKQ8	
Partner		You
♦95		♦J642
	Declarer	
	♦1073	

H	Dummy	
	♣AQ73	
Partner		You
♣J95		♣10642
	Declarer	
	♣K8	

I	Dummy	
	♥AKQ5	
Partner		You
♥J97		♥6432
	Declarer	
	♥108	

J	Dummy	
	♠AQJ83	
Partner		You
♠K5		♠9764
	Declarer	
	♠102	

On the examples above, what if North-South (and East-West) hands were reversed? Now, it is much tougher to know what to keep. Sometimes the bidding is a clue.

Keep Cards to Prevent Disclosing the Layout of a Suit. Don't throw seemingly useless cards from suits where declarer could potentially face a guess. Don't create a situation where you will be void in a suit and mark that suit for declarer. Examples:

K Partner ♥J976	Dummy ♥AK104 Declarer ♥Q53	You ♥82
L Partner ♣832	Dummy ♣Q965 Declarer ♣AK4	You ♣J107
M You ♦762	Dummy ♦Q105 Declarer ♦K98	Partner ♦AJ43
N You ♠753	Dummy ♠K108 Declarer ♠AJ9	Partner ♠Q642

FULL DEALS:

3NT-South Lead: ♦Q	NORTH ♠K2 ♥K2 ♦654 ♣KJ10986	O	WEST ♠983 ♥94 ♦QJ1098 ♣A75	S W N E 1N P 3N P P P	EAST ♠AQJ10 ♥87653 ♦72 ♣32	SOUTH ♠7654 ♥AQJ10 ♦AK3 ♣Q4
7N-South Lead: ♠10	NORTH ♠Q53 ♥AK ♦Q54 ♣KQ765	P	WEST ♠10986 ♥J42 ♦9876 ♣J9	S W N E 2N P 4♣ P 4N P 7N P P P	EAST ♠742 ♥Q1098 ♦32 ♣10843	SOUTH ♠AKJ ♥7653 ♦AKJ10 ♣A2

South wins the diamond lead and starts clubs. West wins the 3rd round to get a signal (low ♥) for spades.

After South cashes his spades and diamonds, East must keep clubs guarded.