

Michael Teaches Defensive Technique

Most Important Part of Technique

- Showing partner where missing cards are
- Remember the difference between opening lead and leading in the middle of the hand
- Defense is hard!

Opening Leads

- Make sure you have agreements for Notrump and Suit Contracts
- Important agreement: lead from a worth holding vs Notrump and Suit Contracts
- Fourth-Best from length is fine for both, but remember against a suit it could easily be from three

Which Card do you Lead vs a suit?



Which Card do you Lead vs Notrump?



What do you do Lead vs a Suit?



What do you do Lead vs Notrump?



What do you do Lead vs a Suit?



What do you do Lead vs Notrump?

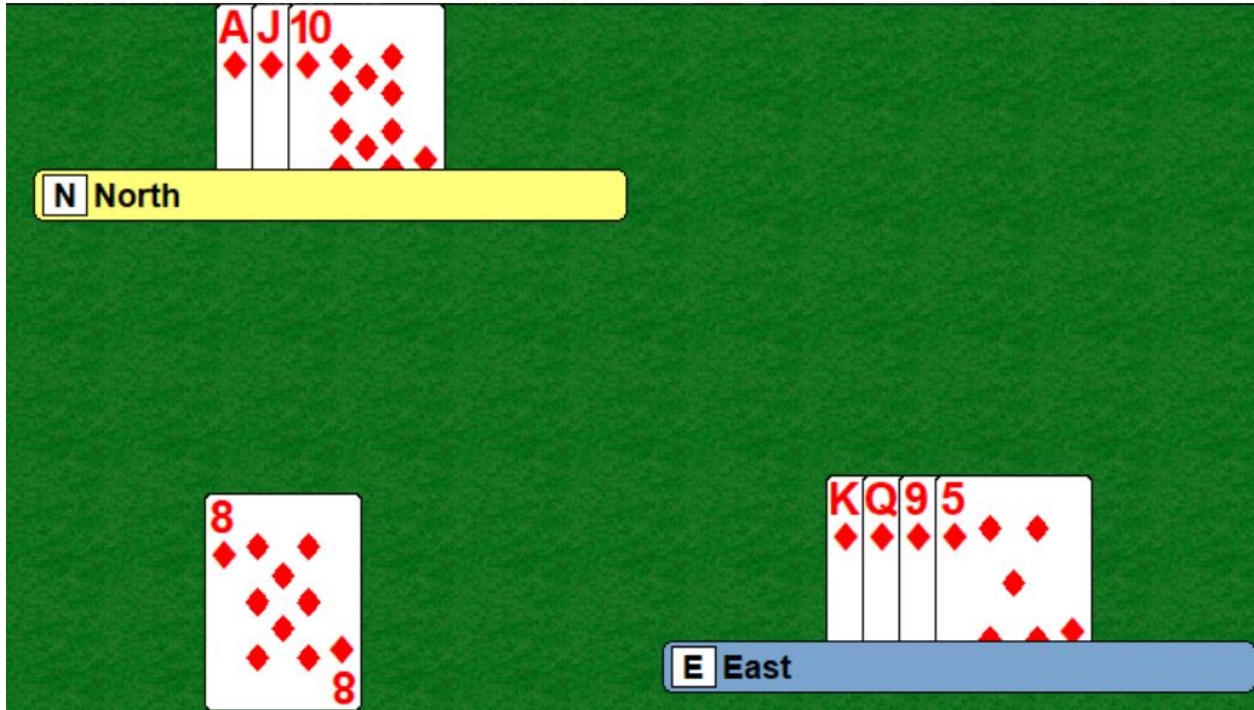


You lead the K and it wins vs NT , What Next?

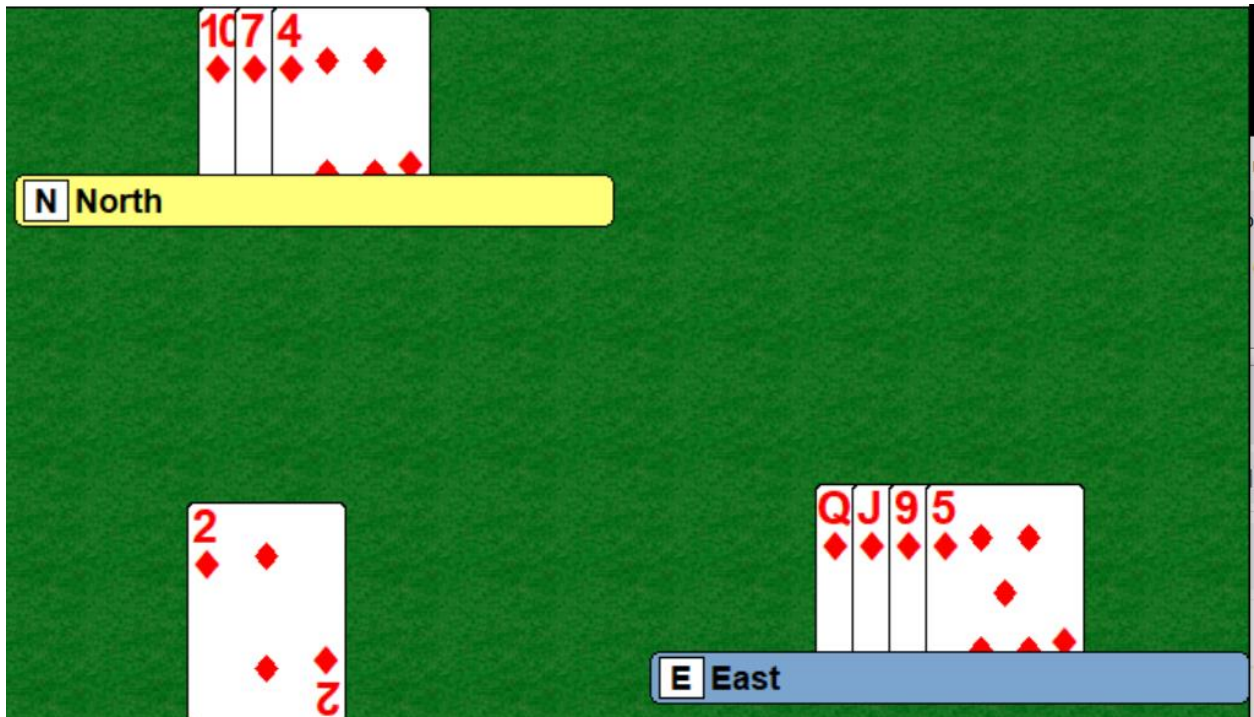


You lead the K and it wins vs suit (partner plays the 9) , What Next?

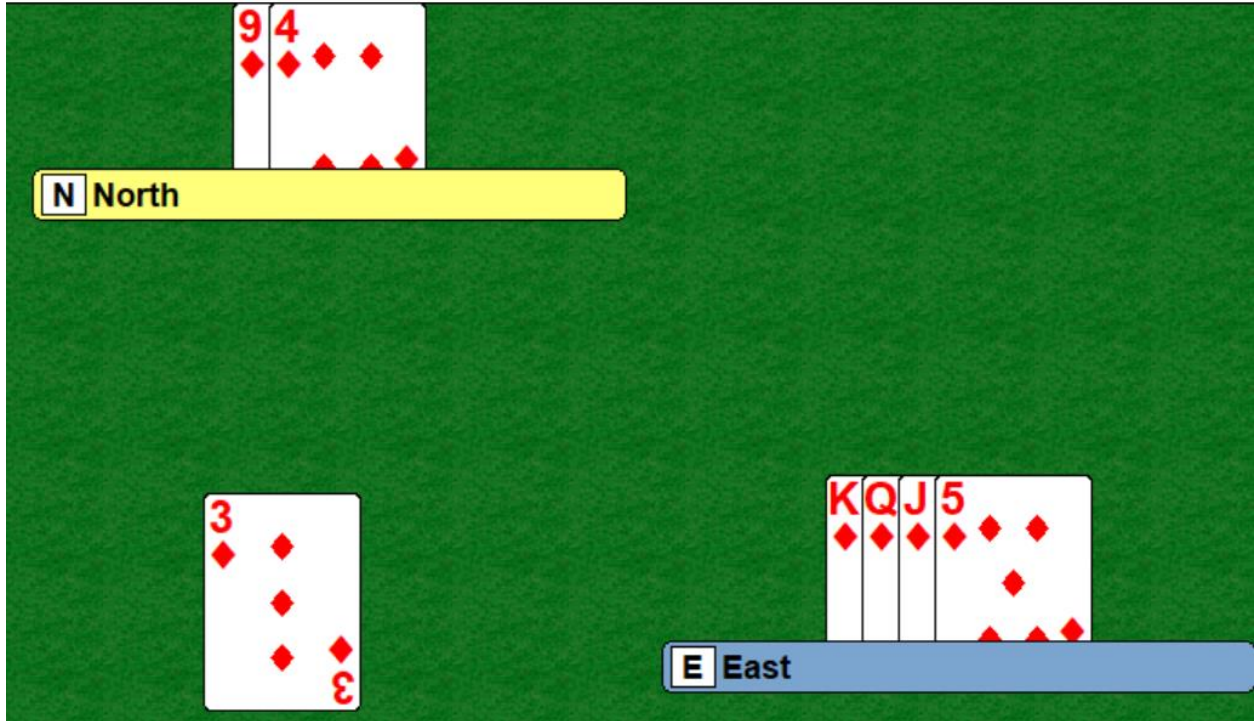




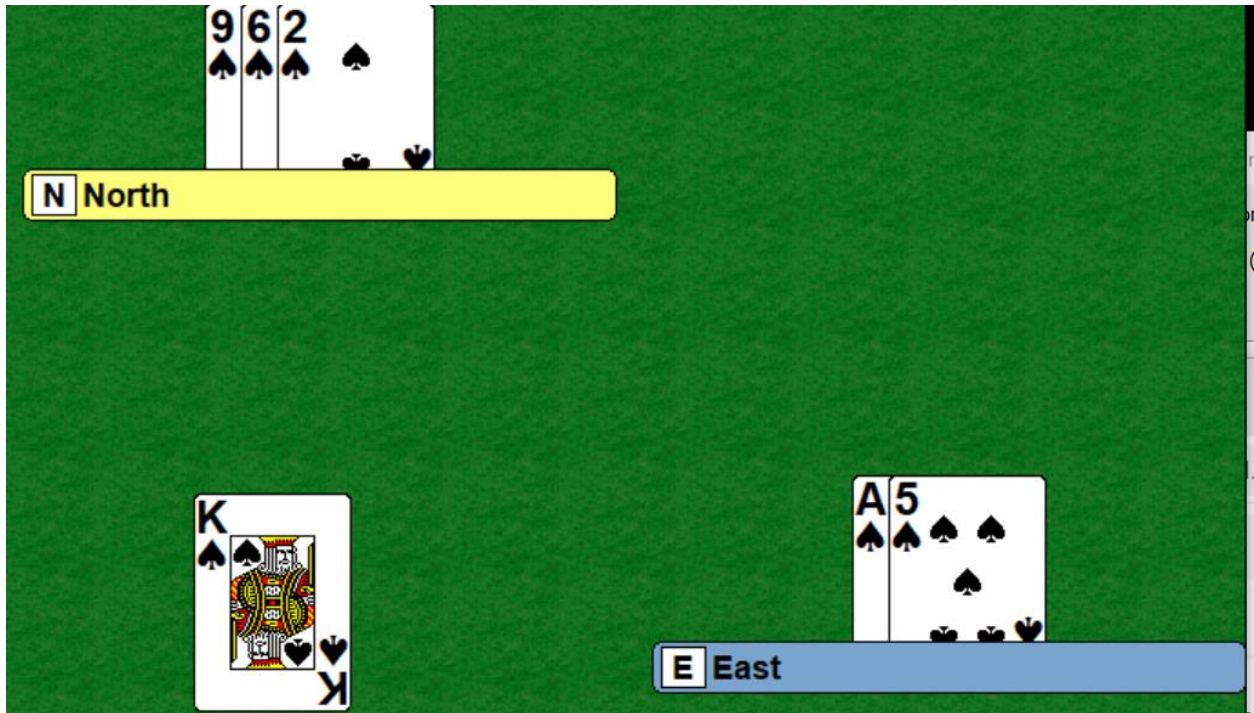
In third seat we play the lowest of touching honors, so we'll play the Q.



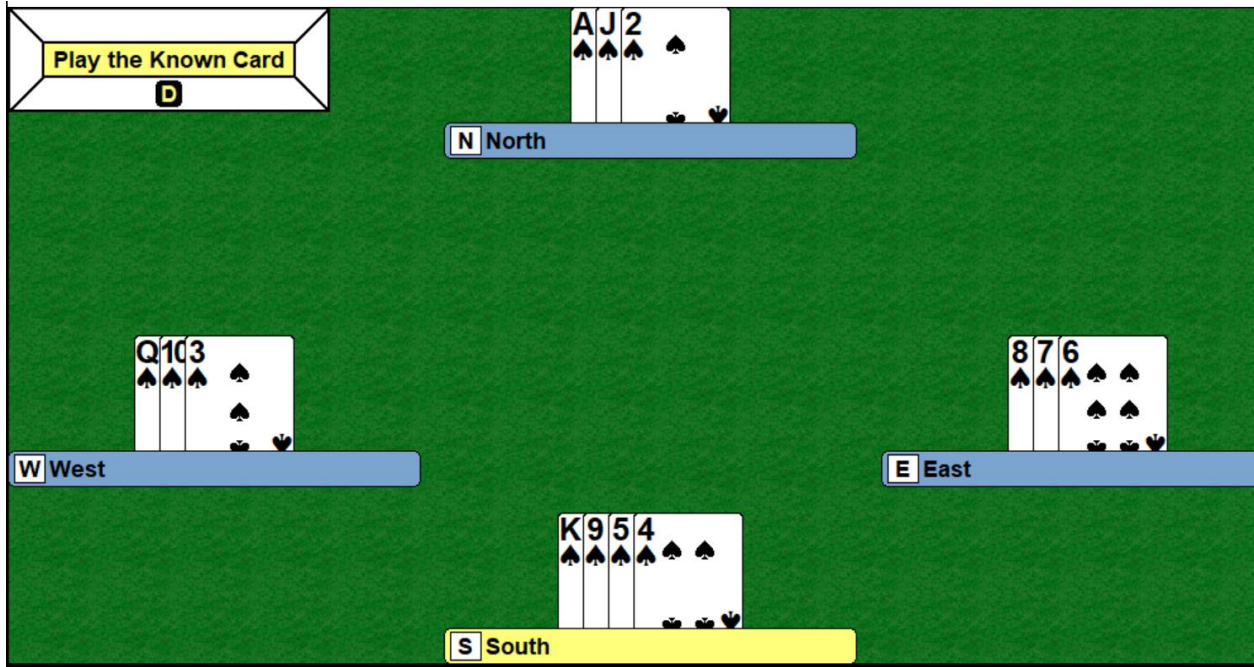
Here, we play the 9 if declarer plays low. Since we see the 10 in dummy, the 9 becomes an equal honor.



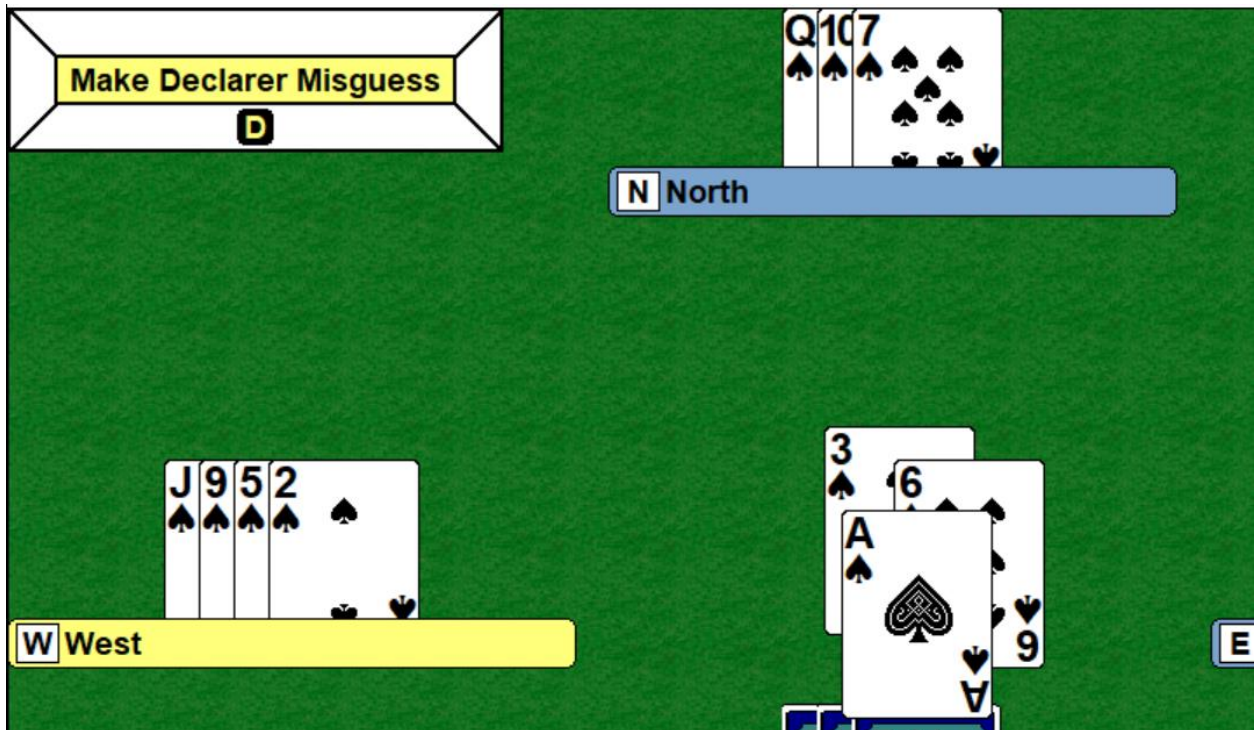
Here we'll win the jack. Next, play the K to show that you have all three cards.



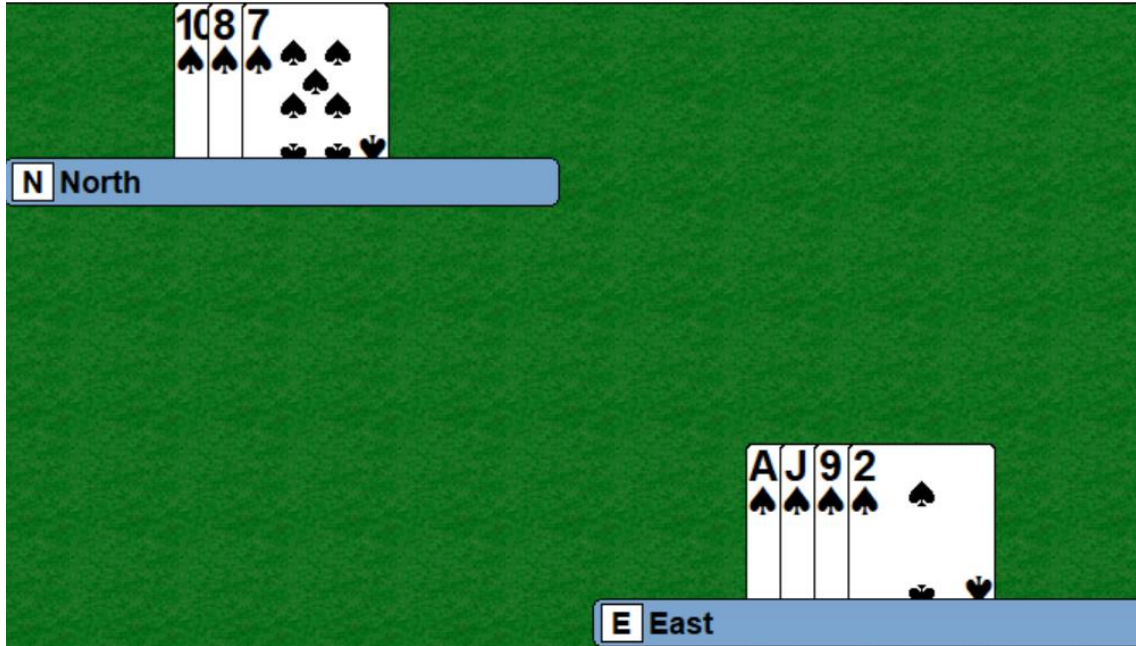
Whether against notrump or a suit contract, you are likely better off taking your ace here. This unblocks the suit and allows partner to play the third round of the suit (similar to high from the short side as declarer)



Declarer plays low to the Jack and then cashes the ace. Declarer knows you have the queen, and you know declarer has the K (partner would have won it) so you might as well drop the Q.



Same story here, if we know declarer has 4 spades. Partner's only spade is the 6. Declarer is going to cash the K next and find out about the split. If we play the 9, declarer can take a two-way finesse and guess wrong. This is complicated!



In the middle of the hand, you decide this suit is your best option. You hope partner has the K. If you play low, declarer can play low and win a trick with the Q later. The answer is to play the J to make what's called a surrounding play. If declarer has the Q and partner the K, you can take four tricks.