

## Finesses Part II

### Finessing Against Two Honours (Double Finesse)

The dealing of cards is a random event. There are no certainties, only probabilities. Suppose that you are sitting south, declaring a contract, missing the king of trump. The king could have been dealt to either East or to West. Occasionally, the bidding of the opponents will provide a clue as to the location of the king. However, in the absence of other information, there is a 50% chance either way. It is just like flipping a coin.

- (a)     A Q     Lead toward dummy and play the queen. The chance of winning the finesse is 50%.  
  
           x x

- (b)     A J 10     When you are missing two honours in a suit and take two finesses, this is known as a **double finesse**. In this example, the ace is a sure trick but you want a second trick. You should lead toward dummy and play the 10. After returning to your hand you should lead toward dummy and play the J.  
  
           x x x x

	West	East	Result
Case 1	K x x	Q x x	First finesse loses; second finesse wins
Case 2	Q x x	K x x	First finesse loses; second finesse wins
Case 3	K Q x	x x x	West splits honours; declarer wins two tricks
Case 4	x x x	K Q x	Both finesses lose

Thus you win two tricks in three cases out of four. This is a success rate of 75%.

- (c)     J 10 9     Take a double finesse by leading the J from dummy toward your hand and letting it run if not covered. If it loses, return to dummy and run the 10. You should win two tricks 75% of the time.  
  
           A 6 2
- (d)     A Q 10     The correct technique is to lead toward dummy and play the 10. Return to your hand and play to the queen. If west has both king and jack, you will win three tricks.  
  
           x x x x

