

DEFENSE

TAKE YOUR TRICKS NoTrump Contracts

Bridge Lab

with the Monroes

DEFENSE GOAL: Maximize combined tricks – think before you play! Consider the Bidding, Opening Lead, and Points.

BEST DEFENSE: Try to establish winning tricks in a long suit. Gather and analyze clues from the auction, then apply that information.

OPENING LEAD: The best opening lead paints a picture to help with a plan to establish winning tricks. If partner has bid during the auction, lead partner's suit. Otherwise,

- ☑ Tend to lead your longest unbid suit.
- ☑ With a choice of suits, tend to lead an unbid Major rather than an unbid Minor. Notrump auctions often conceal Minor suits, but rarely conceal Major suits.
- ☑ Tend not to lead 5-card or longer suits bid by the opponents.
- ☑ Consider suits “bid” by inference (such as Stayman auctions).

Third Hand	The player who contributes the third card to a trick is referred to as Third Hand, and is the partner of the player leading to the trick. Try to visualize the partnership's trick-taking cards based on the partner's lead.
Remainder Count	When returning partner's suit, lead “high-low” when holding two remaining cards to show a doubleton. Otherwise, lead low from three or more remaining cards or lead top of touching honors.
Unblocking	A high card may need to be sacrificed to <i>unblock</i> partner's long suit. Keep an “entry” to the hand with the long suit.

OPENING LEADS – LONG SUITS

SEQUENCE LEAD	Top of Touching Cards headed by an honor card. 3-card Sequence vs. NoTrump Contracts
Solid	<u>K</u> -Q-J-9-6 <u>Q</u> -J-10-5-2 <u>J</u> -10-9-4
Broken	<u>K</u> -Q-10-9-6 <u>Q</u> -J-9-5-3 <u>J</u> -10-8-4
Interior	A- <u>Q</u> -J-7-5 K- <u>J</u> -10-6-3 Q- <u>10</u> -9-5
4th BEST LEAD	The 4th highest card from the top of the longest & strongest suit. AKxxx Kxxx QJxx
Rule of 11	Third hand subtracts the number on the card led from 11. The result is the number of cards in the other hands higher than the card partner led.
The Two	When partner leads the “2,” it is specifically a 4-card suit. Third Hand can count the number of cards in that suit held by the other three hands.

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LAB.033

Defense Takes Tricks Against NT Contracts

Don't Lead the ACE

Board 1
North Deals

	♠ J 6 5		
	♥ 10 6 2		
	♦ J 7 3		
	♣ K J 10 5		
♠ 3 2	N	♠ 10 9 8 7 4	
♥ 4 3	W	♥ J 9 8 7 5	
♦ A K 9 6 2	E	♦ 10 4	
♣ 9 8 3 2	S	♣ A	
	♠ A K Q		
	♥ A K Q		
	♦ Q 8 5		
	♣ Q 7 6 4		
6			
7 5			
22			

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT ¹
Pass	3 N	All pass	

1. Balanced, 22-24 Points

Contract: 3 NT South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♦ 6, 4th highest

Sure Tricks: 3-♠, 3-♥ = 6.

Play: West leads the 4th highest ♦, not the ♦ AK. East leads the remaining ♦ upon winning the ♣ A. West wins four ♦ tricks.

Top of Solid Honor Sequence

Board 2
East Deals

	♠ 9 8 3		
	♥ 10 9 2		
	♦ Q 9 7		
	♣ 10 9 8 7		
♠ J 7 6	N	♠ 10 5 4 2	
♥ K Q J 7 4	W	♥ A 8	
♦ 10 6 2	E	♦ 8 5 4	
♣ 5 2	S	♣ J 6 4 3	
	♠ A K Q		
	♥ 6 5 3		
	♦ A K J 3		
	♣ A K Q		
2			
7 5			
26			

West	North	East	South
		Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦ ¹	Pass	3 N ²
All pass			

1. Waiting
2. Balanced, 25-27 Points

Contract: 3 NT South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♥ K, Sequence, East plays ♦ A

Sure Tricks: 3-♠, 4-♦, 3-♣ = 10.

Play: East overtakes (unblocks) with the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 8 to West who has led the top of a solid ♥ sequence.

Lead Top of Interior Sequence

Board 3
South Deals

	♠ A Q 4		
	♥ 6 5 4		
	♦ 8 6		
	♣ K J 10 7 6		
♠ 9 8 7 2	N	♠ J 6 5	
♥ 9 7 2	W	♥ Q J 10 3	
♦ A J 10 9 3	E	♦ 5 4 2	
♣ 9	S	♣ A 5 3	
	♠ K 10 3		
	♥ A K 8		
	♦ K Q 7		
	♣ Q 8 4 2		
10			
5 8			
17			

West	North	East	South
			1 N ¹
Pass	3 N	All pass	

1. Balanced, 15-17 Points

Contract: 3 NT South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♦ J, Interior sequence

Sure Tricks: 3-♠, 2-♥ = 5.

Play: West leads the top of an interior sequence. After winning the ♣ A, East leads the ♦ 5 (partners suit) and West wins four ♦ tricks to set the contract.

4th Highest - Partner Returns Suit

Board 4
East Deals

	♠ J 4 3		
	♥ Q J		
	♦ Q J 10 7 3		
	♣ K 10 5		
♠ 8 7	N	♠ 10 9 6 5 2	
♥ A 10 8 4 2	W	♥ 9 5 3	
♦ 9 8 2	E	♦ A K	
♣ Q J 9	S	♣ 8 7 2	
	♠ A K Q		
	♥ K 7 6		
	♦ 6 5 4		
	♣ A 6 4 3		
10			
7 7			
16			

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 N ¹
Pass	3 N	All pass	

1. Balanced, 15-17 Points

Contract: 3 NT South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♥ 4, 4th highest, East plays ♥ 3

Sure Tricks: 3-♠, 2-♣ = 5.

Play: West leads 4th highest. Later, East wins the ♦ K, returns the ♥ 9 (remainder count), and West ducks (key). Upon winning the ♦ A, East returns the last ♥.

Defense Takes Tricks Against NT Contracts

Board 5
South Deals

	♠ A 7		
	♥ J 6 3		
	♦ Q J 10 6 4		
	♣ Q 3 2		
♠ J 10 8 4 2	N	♠ K Q 5	
♥ Q 10 9 7	W	♥ A 5 4 2	
♦ K 9	E	♦ 8 7	
♣ 6 5	S	♣ 9 8 7 4	
		♠ 9 6 3	
10		♥ K 8	
6 9		♦ A 5 3 2	
15		♣ A K J 10	
West	North	East	South
			1 N
Pass	3 N ¹	All pass	

1. No 4+card Major, 10-15 Points

Contract: 3 NT South, 9 Tricks
Lead: ♠ J, Top of broken sequence
Sure Tricks: 1-♠, 1-♦, 4-♣ = 6.

Play: West leads the top of a broken sequence. East unblocks the ♠ KQ and upon winning the ♥ A leads the ♠ 5 (link card) so West wins the rest of the ♠s.

Board 6
West Deals

	♠ K 6 2		
	♥ Q 7 2		
	♦ K 10 8 4 3		
	♣ K 3		
♠ Q J 8 7	N	♠ A 10 9 5	
♥ 10 4 3	W	♥ A J 9 8	
♦ J 5	E	♦ 9 2	
♣ 10 6 5 2	S	♣ 9 8 7	
		♠ 4 3	
11		♥ K 6 5	
4 9		♦ A Q 7 6	
16		♣ A Q J 4	
West	North	East	South
			1 N
Pass	Pass	Pass	
Pass	3 N ¹	All pass	

1. No 4+card Major, 10-15 Points

Contract: 3 NT South, 9 Tricks
Lead: ♠ 7, 4th highest, East plays ♠ 5
Sure Tricks: 3-♦, 4-♣ = 7.

Play: West leads the 4th highest ♠. East calculates Rule-of-11 (11-7=4) and sees one in Dummy and 3 in East's hand. East ducks the opening lead. E/W win four ♠ tricks and the ♥ A.

Exception To Returning Partner's Suit

Board 7
North Deals

	♠ 10 8 7 3 2		
	♥ K 5		
	♦ A Q J 2		
	♣ 6 5		
♠ Q 6 5	N	♠ A J 9 4	
♥ 7 6 3 2	W	♥ 9 8	
♦ 4 3	E	♦ 10 9 8	
♣ Q J 7 2	S	♣ A 9 4 3	
		♠ K	
10		♥ A Q J 10 4	
5 9		♦ K 7 6 5	
16		♣ K 10 8	
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦ ¹
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 N ²

All pass
 1. 5+♥s, 4+♦s
 2. ♣ Stopper

Contract: 3 NT South, 9 Tricks
Lead: ♣ 2, 4th highest, East wins ♣ A
Sure Tricks: 5-♥, 4-♦ = 9.
Play: East knows South has three ♣s (West has 4, East has 4 and Dummy shows 2), so South has only one ♠. East leads the ♠ A.