



Finesses : indirect

The aim of a finesse is to make a trick with a non-leading card.

1 - A finesse is direct if, if it succeeds, it keeps the Opponent off lead. All finesses involve a tenace which is a combination of non-touching honors in the same hand, e.g. A Q or K-J

2 - An indirect finesse is a finesse that gains a trick but may involve losing a trick first, thus allowing Opp to get in hand.

3 - a forcing finesse is if you have to sacrifice one of your honors to capture your Opp's honor.

Be careful!

Finesses have a probability of a 50% success rate...so only attempt them if that's the only way possible you can make your contract!

S	W	N	E
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		



OCM 3903

In the example below, the aim isn't to drop the ace! but to successfully make 2 tricks. Start play with the 2 to the honors. If W plays the ace, play the 6 and you'll make 2 tricks. If the ace is in E, then you will only make one trick. Starting with an honor from dummy, you will still make only one trick.



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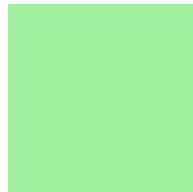
Indirect finesse

An indirect finesse is about trying to avoid an honor being played and not about taking it.

- The correct maneuver is to play a low card toward the isolated honor in your P's hand :
- To succeed : the Opp's honor must be situated before your P's ...

Be Careful : the Opp's may get in hand ...

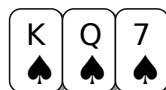
S	W	N	E
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		



QCM 3844

How to make 3 ♦ tricks ? Starting with the Jack, you are always only going to make 2 tricks.

Use an indirect finesse : start with a small card from dummy to the Jack. If the Q is in E, you're going to make 3 tricks.



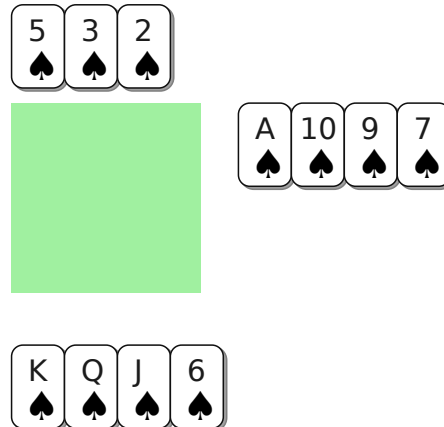
Exercise 4638 Start with a low card from your hand. You always make 2 tricks - King and Queen.



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Indirect Finesse

The technical play is the same when you have the honors in one hand. The correct way to play is by playing a low card several times to your honors. To do this you need to cross over using your other suits. With luck if Opp's honor (which is ranked higher than yours) is on side then it can only take one of your honors



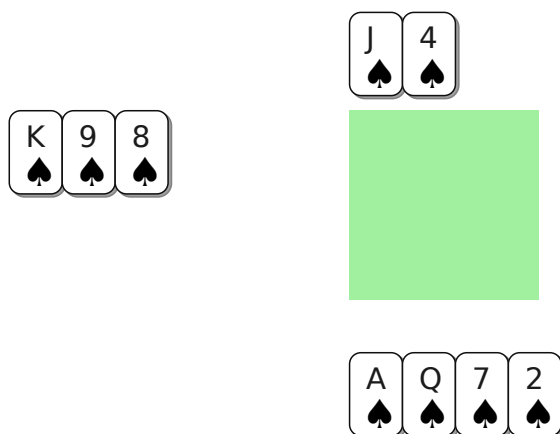
Exercise 4639 You are Declarer in South's seat. If you have the cross over communications, play ♠ 3 times from dummy. East can't do anything about this triple indirect finesse. By starting with the hand that has the 3 consecutive honors, you'll only make 2 tricks



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Example

A more delicate move : You are the Declarer in South's seat and have now situated the King ♠ in West's hand. How can you make 3 tricks ?



Exercise 4640 Start with the 2 from your hand. West plays the 8 (if he plays the King you have 3 tricks), you take it with your Jack. In order to make 3 tricks, the King needs to be 3rd. On the 2nd round play your Ace, then the 7. As hoped the King is indeed 3rd and takes your 7, but your Queen is now leading !