



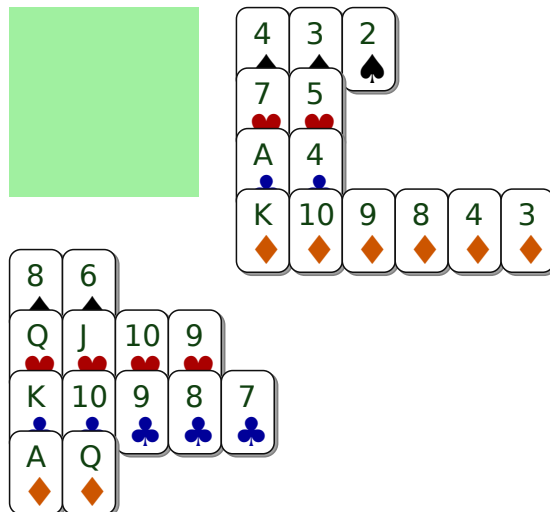
The Merrimac Coup

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refers to the elimination of a strategic card usually a King from the Opp's holding in order to prevent Declarer from crossing back to Dummy and therefore stopping him from establishing a long suit.

Example : You're South playing defence in this 3NT contract. Your P leads the Queen ♠. You've calculated the points and you know that your Partner only has the Queen and Jack of ♠. Declarer wins the lead and now plays Jack ♦. Your P plays the 2 ♦. You win the trick. What card do you play ?

S	W	N	E
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	



Exercise 4611 The 2 ♦ played by your P shows 3 cards. Sacrifice your King ♣ to drop the Ace ♣ ... Declarer can no longer establish his CA! . The Merrimacmaneuver cost you a trick in TRbutpreventsthe declarer from making 4 tricks in ♦