Improvers' Lesson 5: Declarer Play in Suit Contracts   NZBridge
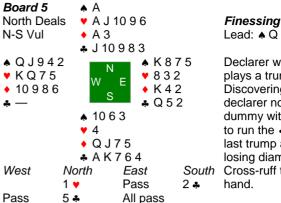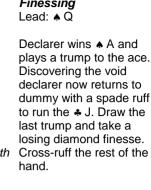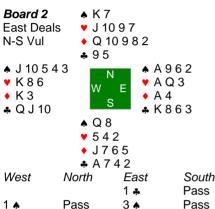
Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Dbl	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

Drawing trumps & Promoting honours

Lead: ♥ A
Then West switches to a low diamond to show an honour. Declarer trumps the 2nd diamond and draws trumps in two rounds.

Declarer now plays the ♥ J which forces out the ♥ K. Now they can ruff two small clubs and discard the ♣ Q on the ♥ Q for 10 tricks.
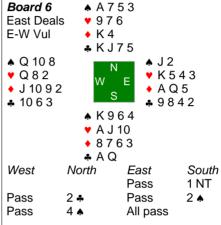
Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

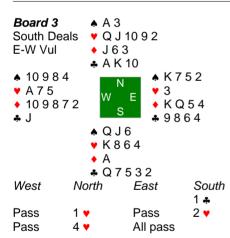***Drawing trumps & Promoting honours***

Lead: ♥ J

Declarer wins the heart lead with the ♥ A and plays ace and another spade. The remaining two trumps fall together. Declarer now loses a trick to the ♣ A.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

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

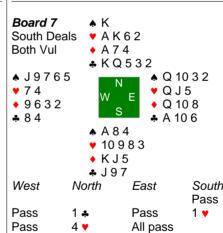| West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

Establish long side suit

Lead: ♦ K

Declarer wins the diamond lead with the ♦ A and draws trumps after forcing out the ace. Now three rounds of clubs, cross to dummy with a diamond ruff and discard the remaining small diamond and the ♠ 3 on the ♣ Q and the ♣ 7.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥[1]	Pass	6 ♥	All pass

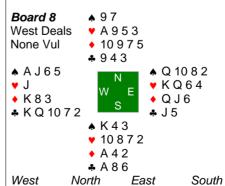1. stronger than bidding 4 ♥

Ruffing in Dummy

Lead: ♣ 2

Declarer wins ♣ A and sees that there are 4 potential losers. Before drawing trumps, declarer plays ♦ A and ruffs a diamond.

Now declarer discards the ♠ 2 on the ♣ K and returns to their hand with the ♥ A, ruffs another diamond then draws trumps.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	All pass	

Finessing

Lead: ♠ Q

Declarer wins ♠ A and plays a trump to the ace. Discovering the void declarer now returns to dummy with a spade ruff to run the ♣ J. Draw the last trump and take a losing diamond finesse. Cross-ruff the rest of the hand.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

Unblocking

Lead: ♦ J
East wins the first two diamonds, then switches to ♥ 3 showing an honour.

Declarer must win with the ♥ A, then unblocks ♣ A and ♣ Q. Now plays ♠ K then ♠ A (leaving last top trump out). Next the ♣ K and ♣ J discarding two losing hearts in South's hand. Cross ruff the rest losing only to ♠ Q for 10 tricks

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

Establish long side suit

Lead: ♠ 5

Declarer wins ♠ K and plays ♥ A and ♥ K leaving the ♥ Q out.

Now lead a small club towards Declarer's ♣ J97 and continue to play clubs until the suit is set up.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

Finessing

Lead: ♦ 10

Declarer plays ♦ Q, South wins and plays back a ♦. Declarer wins ♦ J. Declarer has 3 aces to lose and can't afford to lose a spade as well.

Play ♠ Q. If not covered by ♠ K, let it run. Repeat the finesse and draw the last trump. Lose only the ♣ A and ♥ A.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

North
♠ Q 10 7 5 4
♥ 7 6
♦ Q 10
♣ A 9 6 2

West
♠ J 6
♥ J 10 8 2
♦ A 9 7 5
♣ K J 10

East
♠ A 9
♥ A Q 9 5 3
♦ K 6 3 2
♣ Q 5

South
♠ K 8 3 2
♥ K 4
♦ J 8 4
♣ 8 7 4 3

Lead: small spade

South attacks with a small spade promising an honour. East wins and crosses to ♦ A to take a losing trump finesse. The defence can now take a trick in each suit to defeat the contract. If South had led a club at trick one, the spade loser would have been discarded on the third club.

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

North
♠ 10 8
♥ K 5 2
♦ J 7
♣ A 9 5 4 3 2

West
♠ Q J 7 5
♥ Q J 7
♦ 6 5 4
♣ K Q 8

East
♠ A K 9 3 2
♥ A 6 3
♦ A 9
♣ J 10 7

South
♠ 6 4
♥ 10 9 8 4
♦ K Q 10 8 3 2
♣ 6

Lead: ♣ 6

South must choose between ♦ K and a singleton club. It is preferable to lead a club hoping to get a ruff.

There is a greater chance of beating the contract by getting the ruff first and hopefully the ♦ K later.

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

North
♠ Q 8 7 6
♥ K Q 6
♦ K
♣ A Q 8 7 3

West
♠ A 4
♥ J 10 8 7 5
♦ A J 6 3
♣ 10 6

East
♠ 5 3 2
♥ 4
♦ 10 9 8 5 2
♣ K 9 4 2

South
♠ K J 10 9
♥ A 9 3 2
♦ Q 7 4
♣ J 5

Lead: ♥ 4 singleton

East leads the heart, hoping to get a ruff. North wins and plays a spade to the king. West wins and returns a heart for East to ruff. East should play a diamond as clubs were bid by North.

This defence now defeats the contract. If East had not led a heart at trick one, the contract would have made.

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

North
♠ Q J 6 2
♥ 5 4 3
♦ J 6 5
♣ 8 5 3

West
♠ 10 5
♥ Q J 10 9 8 2
♦ A 2
♣ A K Q

East
♠ K 9 3
♥ 7 6
♦ K Q 8 4 3
♣ 10 9 6

South
♠ A 8 7 4
♥ A K
♦ 10 9 7
♣ J 7 4 2

Lead: ♠ Q

North leads the top of a sequence enabling the defence to take two tricks in that suit. If any other lead is made, declarer can discard a losing spade on the third round of diamonds. A low spade lead would not beat the contract as declarer can play low from dummy.

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

North
♠ A J 10 3 2
♥ K J 5
♦ J 9 3
♣ 9 4

West
♠ K 9 8
♥ A Q 8 7 4
♦ 8
♣ K 8 6 5

East
♠ 7 6 5
♥ 9
♦ A Q 7 2
♣ A J 10 3 2

South
♠ Q 4
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ K 10 6 5 4
♣ Q 7

Lead: ♠ Q

South leads partner's suit. With a doubleton, lead the higher card (with more than 2 of partners suit, lead low)

If you lead a diamond, declarer will discard a spade from dummy and will now lose only 2 spade tricks.

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	All pass		