

Second-Hand Tips

Second Hand Low, and (usually) Cover and Honor with an Honor.

In general, when you play second to a trick, do not play a high card in an attempt to win the trick. Play your lowest card and leave it up to partner who plays fourth to the trick.

1. The most basic illustration of why 2nd-hand low is crucial:

<u>Dummy</u>		<u>You</u>
J76		K104
	□	

If declarer leads low from dummy, follow LOW with the four.
But, if the JACK is led from dummy, cover with the KING.

	<u>Dummy</u>	
	J76	
<u>You</u>		□
K104		
	<u>Declarer</u>	
	Leads <i>low</i>	

If declarer leads low from his hand, follow LOW with the four.
But, if the QUEEN is led from declarer, cover with the KING.

North J76		North J76
West K104	□	East A92
South Q853		South Q853

No matter which hand declarer leads from, proper defense nets 3 tricks.

- 2.
- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|---|
| Q83 | K104
□
975 <u>2</u> | AJ6 | South leads the two. West should play the three. After declarer plays from dummy, East will have the opportunity to win the trick as cheaply as possible. |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|---|
- 3.
- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|---|
| J85 | K3 <u>2</u>
□
Q1076 | A94 | If North leads the two, East should play the four. East would like to save his ace to capture North's king. |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|---|
- 4.
- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|----|---|
| Q7654 | AK109
□
<u>J</u> 3 | 82 | It would be pointless for West to cover South's jack. He can see that it can't promote a trick. |
|-------|--------------------------|----|---|
- 5.
- | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|------|---|
| A1076 | KJ8
□
3 <u>2</u> | Q954 | When South leads low, West should play 2 nd hand low (smoothly, of course) to give declarer a guess. |
|-------|------------------------|------|---|
- 6.
- | | | | |
|------|------------------------|-------|---|
| Q954 | 3 <u>2</u>
□
KJ8 | A1076 | When North leads low, East should play 2 nd hand low (smoothly, of course) to give declarer a guess. |
|------|------------------------|-------|---|

SPLITTING HONORS : When you have touching honors in 2nd seat, it is usually correct to play one of them.

- 7.
- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------|---|
| QJ8 | A102
□
K97 | 6543 | If South leads low, West should insert an honor to prevent declarer from taking 3 tricks. |
|-----|------------------|------|---|

