

# Bridge Theory for the Practitioners

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## 45. Three Sizzlers for the Holidays

This will be my last column in 2013. So instead of the usual techniques discussions, I will give you three sizzling play hands for your enjoyment during the holiday season.

### Sizzler Number 1.

The auction goes

S	W	N	E
1D	P	1S	2H
3D	4H	5D	All pass.

Dummy:	T 8 7 6 2	7 6	9 8 5 2	A K
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LHO:

K 3  
J T 3 2  
J 6 4  
Q T 9 5

RHO:

A Q J 9 5  
K Q 9 8 4  
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8 7 3

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Declarer:	4	A 5	A K Q T 7 3	J 6 4 2
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The lead is the K of S and spade continuation which you ruff. You have a 10 card trump fit and the contract will be trivial to make if trumps are 2-1. But what happens if trumps are 3-0? In that case, if you play just one round of trump before touching Cs, you will get the bad news: *you are getting set*. If trumps are 3-0 then the way to make the hand is first to cash AK of Cs and then return to hand and with a trump. You get the bad news of 3-0 trump break but you are okay. Next ruff a C, come back to hand with the A of H and ruff a C. Then one trump is left in dummy to come back to hand and draw trumps. So the message is even when you have a 10 card trump fit don't just draw trump by habit. Think through the hand before touching any card.

**Sizzler Number 2.**

The auction goes

<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>
P	2S	X	4S
6C	P	P	All pass.

The lead is A of S.

Dummy:	Q T	A K T 3	A K J T	7 6 4
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LHO:

A K 9 8 5 4  
Q 8 2  
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T 9 3 2

RHO:

J 7 6 3 2  
J 9 6 4  
Q 7 4 3  
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Declarer:	---	7 5	9 8 6 5 2	A K Q J 8 5
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You ruff and draw 4 rounds of trump. What do you discard from dummy?

If you discard a D. West can refuse to take his Q and you have to come to your hand with the last trump. You will go down.

If you do not discard a D, the D suit is blocked and that has its own problems.

So you block the D suit and discard the Q of S. This is the play that comes with a (!) sign.

Now you play the A, K, and J of D. West wins and plays a S that you ruff and *now* you discard the T of D from dummy. The D suit comes alive.

### Sizzler Number 3.

The auction goes 1S-1N-3S-4S where the opponents tare silent.

The lead is K of D.

Dummy:        6 5                    K 8                    9 7 6 5                    K J T 6 4

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LHO:

Q J 7  
Q 7 5 2  
K Q J 4  
8 7

RHO:

T 8  
A J T 4  
T 8 3 2  
9 5 2

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Declarer:        A K 9 4 3 2                    9 6 3                    A                    A Q 3

If you play a H to the K at trick 2, RHO will win his ace and switch to a trump. No more H ruff possible. *You will go down.*

On the other hand, if you play 3 round of S, LHO will win and play a H.

What's the way out?

Duck a trump right away. Then you will lose 2 more Hs and that's all.

*Sizzling.*

#### References:

**Sizzler 1.**        Terence Reese, "The Expert Game".

**Sizzler 2.**        Andrew Diosy and Linda Lee, "You have to see this".

**Sizzler 3.**        Guy Leve, "Encyclopedia of card play techniques in Bridge".