

# Bridge Theory for the Practitioners

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## 36. My Kingdom Just For an Entry

When entry to the dummy is limited, the whole hand centers on availability of those entries. Declarer focuses on getting to dummy by any maneuver possible while defense focuses on foiling declarer's plan. One weapon defense can often use in stopping declarer from gaining a dummy entry is by playing **second hand high**. Let's start with an example.

### Example 1.

South is playing in 4H when West opened the bidding with 1C. Here are the hands:

K 9 5	K 2	Q T 9 7 3 2	J T
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A J 4			8 7 6 2
T 7 6			4 3
A K 8			J 5 4
Q 7 5 3			K 9 8 6
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Q T 3	A Q J 9 8 5	6	A 4 2

West leads the ace of D and then makes a trump switch with the 6 of H. Declarer wins in hand and plays the 3 of S. If West carelessly plays a small S, declarer gets an extra entry to the dummy by playing the 9 of S. This extra entry is critical to set up dummy's diamonds.

### Example 2.

On this hand, played in the highest level of the game, declarer takes a view based on his analysis that the defense is *capable* of making entry killing second hand high plays.

9                      K T 7 2                      6 5 4                      T 9 8 6 3

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T 6 5 4 2			K 8 7 3
J 6 4 3			-
9			Q J 8 3 2
Q J 4			K 7 5 2

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A Q J                      A Q 9 8 5                      A K T 7                      A

After a non-so-common set of bidding, South plays in 6H. I have changed the bidding here while keeping the essential information intact. South opens 2C in my altered version:

2C	P	2D (0-1 control)	P
2H	P	4H (weak)	X (take-out)
6H	all pass		

The opening lead was the Queen of Cs. Declarer wins in hand and realizes that East has the two Black Kings, the Q-J of Ds, *and shortness in H* for his take-out double. The main idea of the hand is to discard a D on C-T and then taking a ruffing finesse of the C-King against East. This sets up Cs in dummy. However, there is a lack of enough entry to dummy to do all these and take the S hook. If declarer starts with A and 5 of Hs, West must insert the J of H to take away a vital entry to dummy. South knew that West is *capable* of doing this. So what does South do to protect against that? At trick two, South plays the 5 of Hs from hand and when West plays small he plays the 7. The 7!

My kingdom just for an entry.

### Example 3. Entry Squeeze

Sometimes, it is possible to create an extra entry to the dummy via a squeeze play. Hence the name: *Entry Squeeze*. Here is one such example:

K 7	8 4 3	K 6 5 2	J 8 4 3
T 8 5 3			A Q 6
T 7 5 2			A J 9
J			9 8 7 3
9 6 5 2			Q T 7
J 9 4 2	K Q 6	A Q T 4	A K

South plays in 3N with the 3 of S lead. East plays 3 round of S, declarer wins the third round with the J and plays A, Q of Ds and East discards a H. Declarer needs to play twice to the K Q of Hs but how to do that?

The solution is to follow one of the golden principles in Bridge: **lose must-lose tricks early**. Observe what happens if declarer now plays the 9 of S and let West win it with his T. What is East going to discard? Here are his choices for the poison:

- 1) East discards a C: Declarer cashes A K of C, goes to dummy with the D king and wins the J of C.
- 2) East discards a H: Declarer goes to dummy with the K of D and now he needs to play only once to the K Q of Hs, to score two tricks.
- 3) East discards a D: This gives declarer *two* entries to dummy in Ds to play Hs twice from dummy.

### References:

1. Example 1 is from *Rodwell Files*, page – 248. On page 249 Rodwell has another example on this topic which is also worth studying.
2. Example 2 is from Tim Bourke's *Bridge Hand of the Week* on the ACBL web site. (June 17, 2013). Italian star Fulvio Fantoni played this hand in the Cavendish invitation pair tournament. He was the only player to make 6H and was recognized for the best played hand of the *tournament*.  
By the way this *Bridge Hand of the Week* article on the ACBL web site is a great resource. Every Monday a new hand appears, so no silly Sudoku with breakfast on Mondays.
3. Example 3 is from Geza Ottlik and Hugh Kelsey's book *Adventures in Card Play*. This particular deal (and another one from the same book) has been highlighted in the Wikipedia --- the free encyclopedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entry\\_squeeze](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entry_squeeze)).