



BRIDGE

COVER OR NOT

Chapter 1

Defense Against NT Contracts

Melih Ozdil

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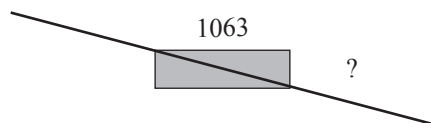
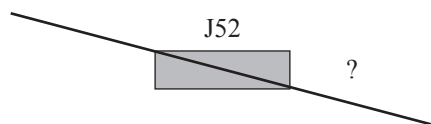
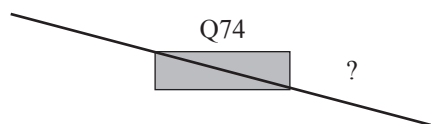
WHEN TO COVER AN HONOR WITH HONOR

Wizard of Oz Bridge

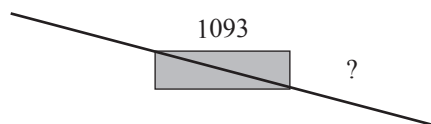
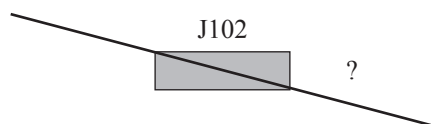
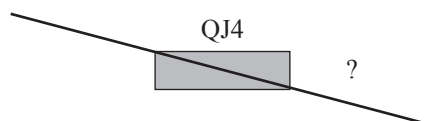
Cover or Not rule is the most important defensive application. This rule help to make the right decision whether to cover or not the honor of the opponent played by the right side. The rule must be learned and defensive player who holds an honor in a suit which has an honor in dummy has to plan what to do prior to the play of this suit. In addition to the losses that is generated by not knowing this rule; not being prepared and pausing when an honor is played by the right side results in the information given to the opponent. The rule needs to be applied if there is chance of winning. There must be a chance of winning by an honor or a spot card in your or partner's hand when rule is applied. The hope of this is sufficient; covering the opponent's honor without any chance of winning will be a mistake, logic is always above all the rules. In spite of applying the rule depending on whether dummy is on the right or left, it gives the same result if the inspection is done with four hands open.

Dummy is at the Right Side

* If there is one honor in dummy and declarer is played this honor, it is covered.

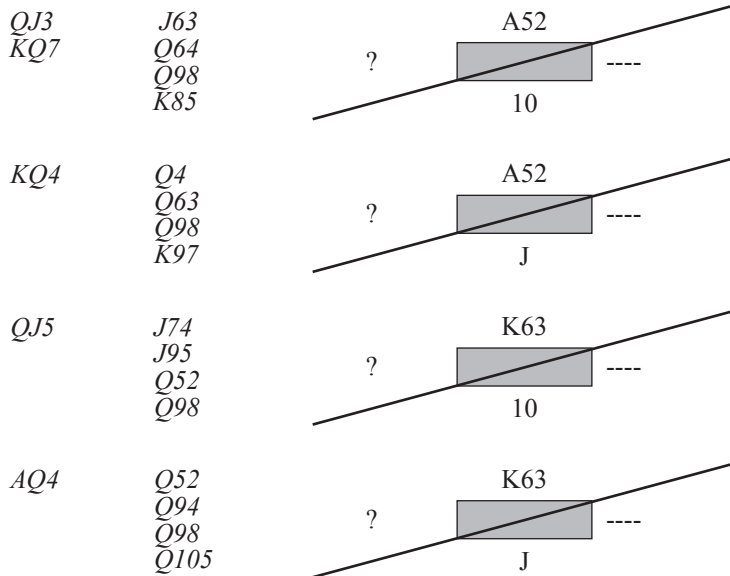
	<i>J52</i> <i>Q86</i> <i>K63</i> <i>QJ4</i>
	<i>Q86</i> <i>K63</i> <i>K107</i> <i>KQ4</i>
	<i>K86</i> <i>K103</i>

* If there is attached honors in dummy and we don't have more than one higher honor, then the last honor played from dummy is covered.

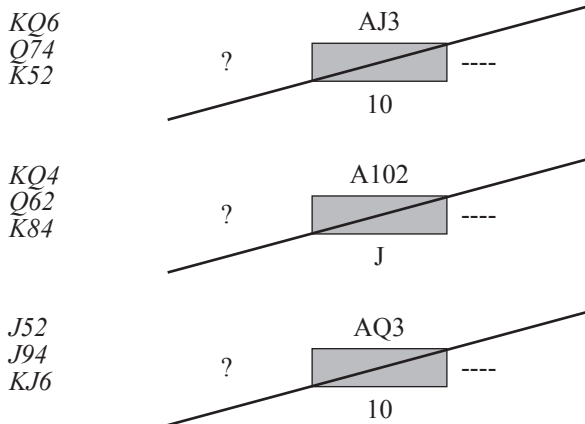
	<i>J52</i> <i>J87</i> <i>Q86</i> <i>K75</i>	<i>QJ7</i> <i>KQ5</i>
	<i>Q53</i> <i>Q98</i> <i>K75</i> <i>K94</i>	<i>KQ4</i> <i>AQ5</i>
	<i>K73</i> <i>K109</i> <i>A82</i> <i>A105</i>	

Dummy is at the Left Side

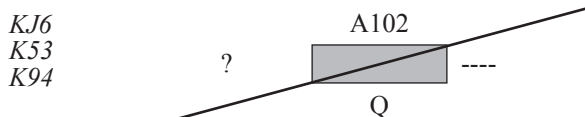
If the opponent plays an honor from his hand and there is a higher honor in dummy:

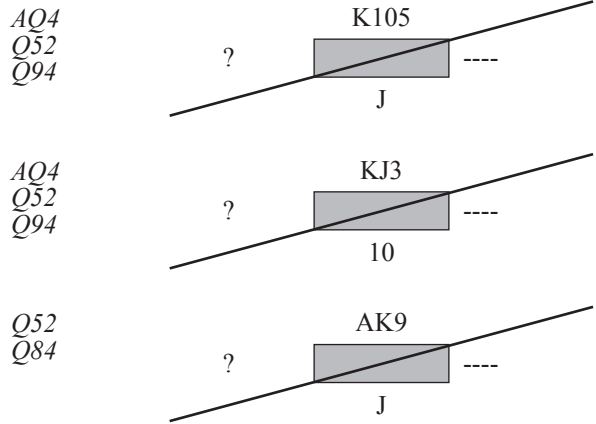


* If we have no more than one honor in our hand, we don't cover at the first round!

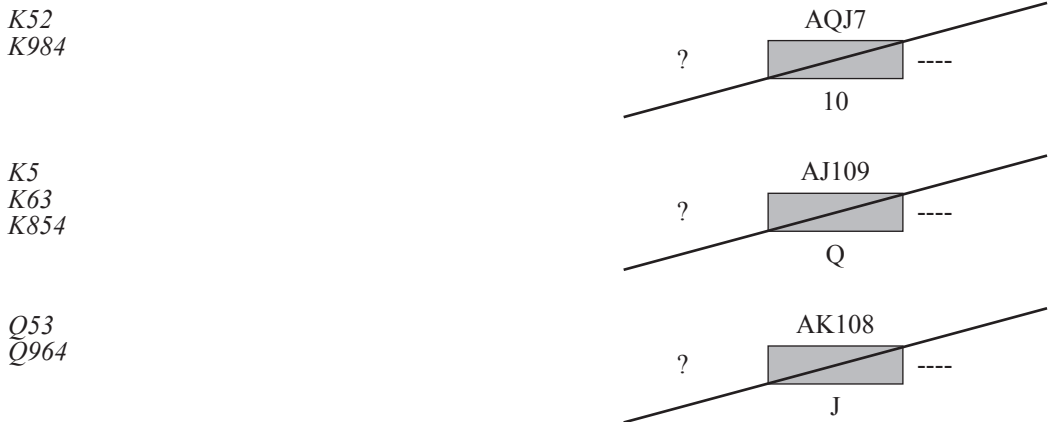


* If there is two honors in dummy, the honor played by declarer is covered.



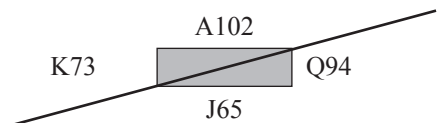


* If there is four or five card suit with three honors in dummy, declarer's honor is covered only if there is chance to win a trick with a spot card.

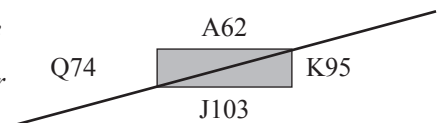


APPLICATIONS

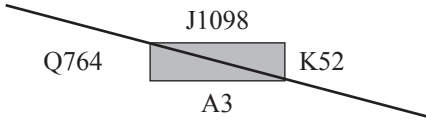
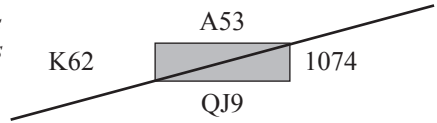
If small is given over the jack, defense can't take a trick besides the queen; If king is inserted East takes two tricks with queen and nine.



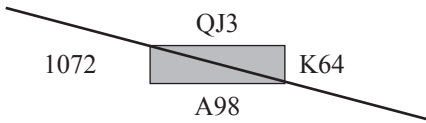
If queen is inserted over the jack, declarer takes with the ace, play towards the ten and wins two tricks. If small is given first; then queen is played over the ten, declarer can't take a trick besides the ace



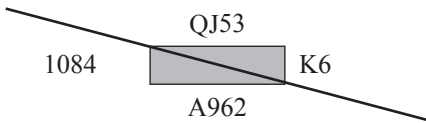
If king is inserted over the queen, declarer plays towards the nine from dummy and takes three tricks. If small is given first; then jack is covered, nine can't win a trick.



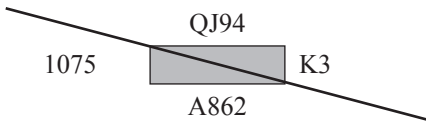
If king is inserted over the jack or the ten that is played later, declarer takes three tricks.



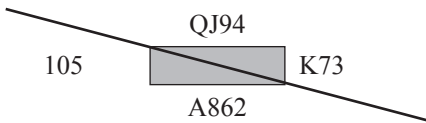
If king is inserted over the queen, declarer plays the nine from his hand to take a finesse to ten and takes three tricks



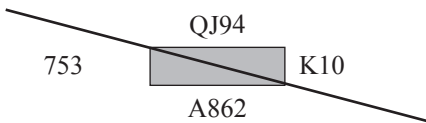
If small is given under the queen, declarer continues with the ace and takes four tricks. Inserting the king should be preferred over the queen hoping that partner has some marks since the distribution is not known.



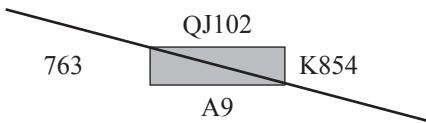
If king is inserted over the queen, declarer plays towards the nine and takes four tricks. If small is given first, West wins a trick with the ten in case jack is continued with.



If king is inserted over the queen, there is no chance to win a trick. If small is played, declarer may cash the ace at the next round.

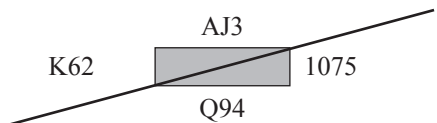


If king is inserted over the queen; declarer may lose a trick to ten by taking a finesse.

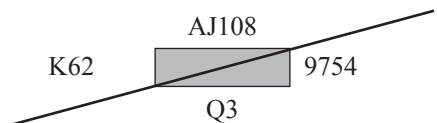


If king is inserted over the queen, declarer takes four tricks

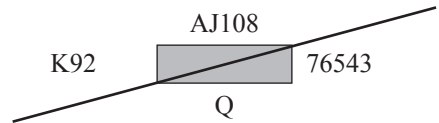
If king is inserted over the queen; East wins a trick with the ten.



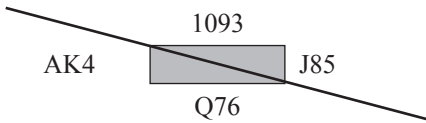
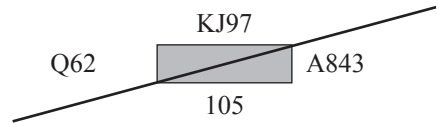
If king is inserted over the queen; East wins a trick with the nine.



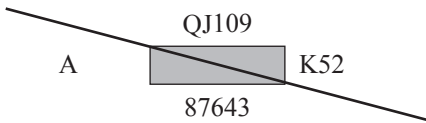
Inserting king over the queen won't gain a trick; small is given assuming queen is singleton.



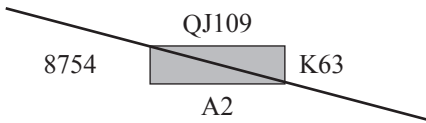
If queen is inserted over the ten; East wins two tricks with the ace and eight.



If jack is inserted over the ten, declarer plays towards the nine later and takes a trick. If small is given first, then jack is inserted over the nine, declarer can't take a trick.



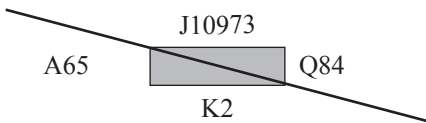
If king is inserted over the queen; defense takes only one trick with the AK!



If king is inserted over the queen, declarer takes four tricks.

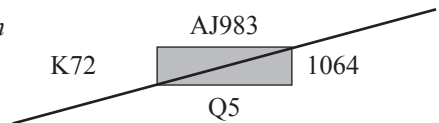


If queen is inserted over the jack, defense can't take a trick.

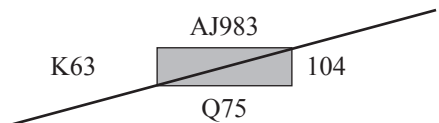


If queen is inserted over the jack, defense can't take a trick besides the ace.

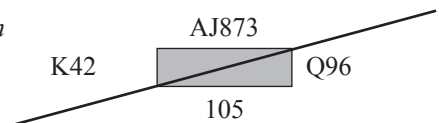
If king is inserted over the queen: East wins a trick with the ten.



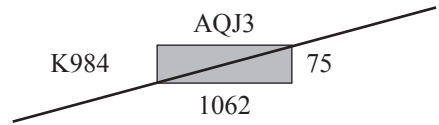
If king is inserted over the queen: East may win a trick, since it is likely for declarer to take a finesse to the ten.



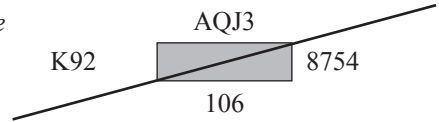
If king is inserted over the ten, East wins two tricks with the queen and nine.



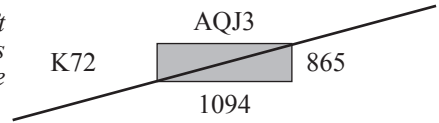
If king is inserted over the ten, nine wins a trick.



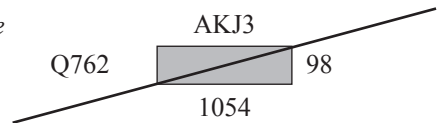
If king is inserted over the ten, East wins a trick with the eight.



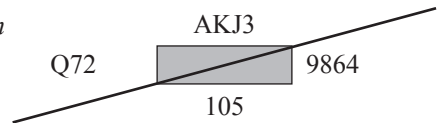
Inserting the king over the ten or giving small doesn't change the result; but ten is covered since distribution is not known and East may take a trick with the nine if he has 9xxx.



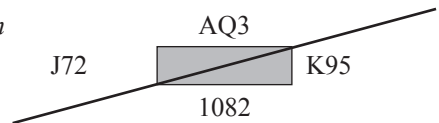
If Queen is inserted over the ten, seven wins a trick since nine and eight drops from East.



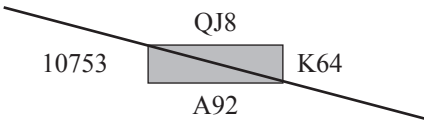
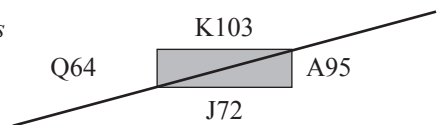
If Queen is inserted over the ten, East wins a trick with the nine.



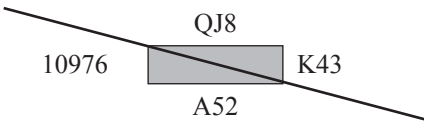
If Queen is inserted over the ten, East wins a trick with the nine in addition to the king.



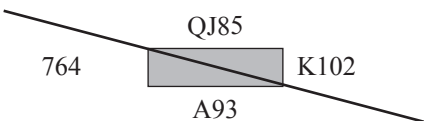
If Queen is inserted over the jack, East wins two tricks with the ace and nine.



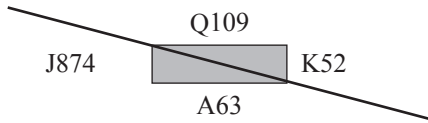
If king is inserted over the queen after West's lead; declarer goes towards the eight later and takes three tricks.



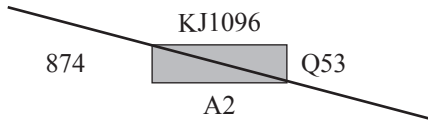
Inserting the king over the queen after West's lead of nine or ten will result in loss of a trick since declarer can take a finesse to West's spot card..



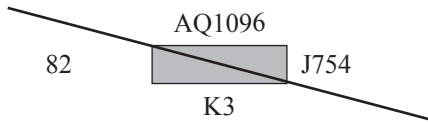
Inserting the king over the queen after West's lead won't change the result; but small is given first in order not to leave entry to the long side.



If king is inserted over the ten after West's lead; declarer plays towards nine later and takes three tricks.



After West's lead, small is given over the ten in case king is singleton or not to leave an entry to the longer side.



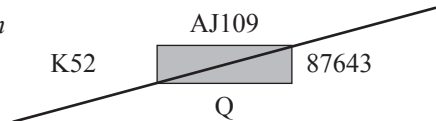
After West's lead, small is given under the ten, in case declarer has singleton king or not to leave entry to the long side if king is doubleton.

LOGICAL APPLICATIONS

Based on the distribution that is seen, the gathered information or the progress and if covering the honor is understood not to be giving any benefit, It should definitely not to be done. Covering the honor without any chance of winning and defending that by claiming the actions are based on the rules can't be acceptable. The rule must be applied under the umbrella of logic.

* If honors and spot cards in dummy show that there is no chance of winning, the honor played by declarer should not be covered.

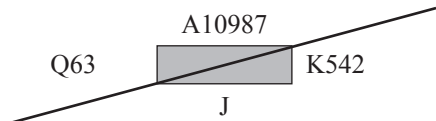
Small is given with the hope that declarer has singleton or he inserts the ace to apply another plan.



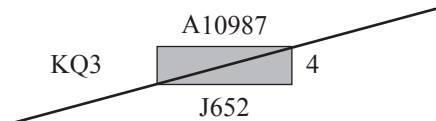
King is inserted with the hope that East can take a trick with nine.



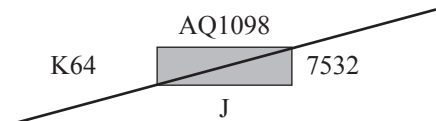
Small is given.



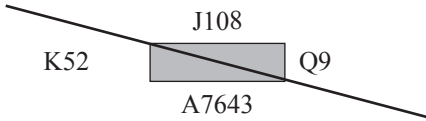
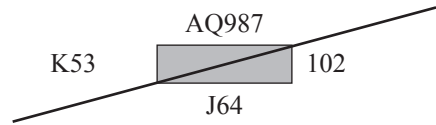
Small is given, hoping that declarer may play the ace.



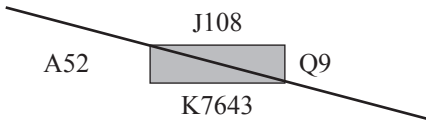
Small is given.



King is inserted hoping East to take a trick with ten.



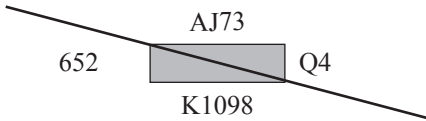
If nine is given under the jack, there will be no chance to take the second trick. Queen is inserted hoping that declarer goes towards the eight later.



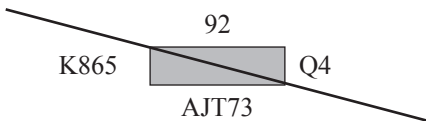
If nine is given under the jack, there will be no chance to take the second trick. Queen is inserted hoping that declarer goes towards the eight later.

The Developments on the Trump or the Long Suit of Opponents

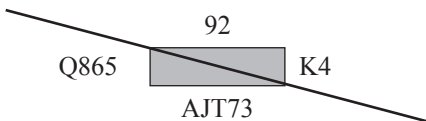
If there is no special information for partner to win a trick and it is not likely for a spot card in your hand to win a trick, covering is not done with trump queen. Hoping to win a trick with doubleton trump queen is expected, if two honors are not seen in left side, In order not to make a non-profitable play, first need to know the play style of the declarer and be ready.



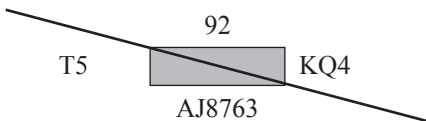
The declarer who has chance to take finesse to both sides, plays jack from dummy first in order to force East to play the queen but inserts the king if it doesn't happen and take a finesse to West. East should give small without thinking.



If declarer without chance to take finesse to both sides plays the nine from dummy; it is covered in order to give partner a chance to win a trick with a spot card.



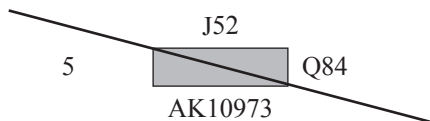
Nine is covered with the king for the same reason as above.



Since there is no chance for two tricks if declarer has the AJT an honor is not inserted. In this case, it is probable for partner to take a trick with Tx. In addition no trick will be lost if partner has singleton honor

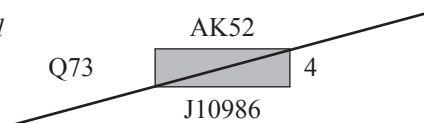
The Applied Traps to Capture the Trump Queen and Play of the Defense

It is not acceptable for the declarer to play an honor from hand or dummy unnaturally and quickly on the table in order to obtain undue information. On the other hand, declarer's play of a small honor without disturbing the tempo in order to mislead the opponents is normal an expert action with sufficient honors and spot cards. This trap despite being ineffective against experienced and prepared opponents, can be successful against inexperienced players.

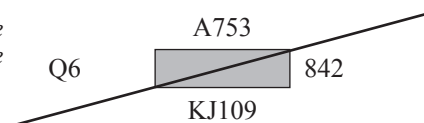


If there is no special information, finesse for the queen is not done holding total nine cards. In spite of this, jack will be started with to force East to insert the queen! East should give small.

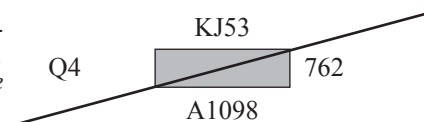
In spite of the goal to cash the high honors, jack is started to force West to insert the queen. West should give small.



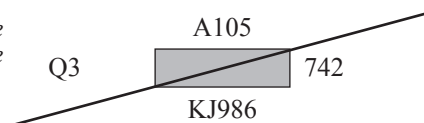
In spite of the goal of cashing the ace and taking a finesse to East, jack is started with hoping West to insert the queen! West should give small.



Ten is started with, in case West inserts the queen; although the goal is to play the king and take a finesse to East. West should be prepared for this situation after seeing the dummy and give small without any hesitation.



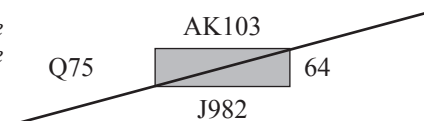
In spite of the goal of cashing the ace and taking a finesse to East, jack is started with hoping West to insert the queen! West should give small.



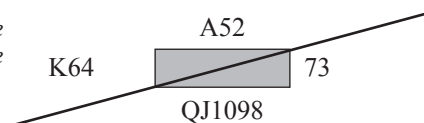
* Since partner has singleton or doubleton and there is no chance to take a trick with smaller spot cards in hand, then honor is not covered.

- If the suit played is known to be at least eight cards in opponents hands.

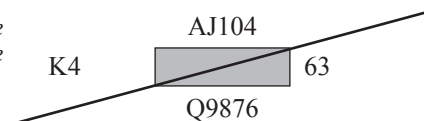
Declarer's honor is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick. Declarer may cash high honors to drop the trump queen.



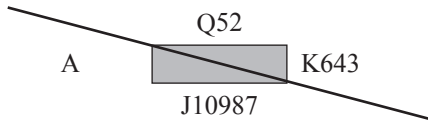
Declarer's honor is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick. Declarer may insert the ace to drop the king.



Declarer's honor is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick. Declarer may insert the ace to drop the king.

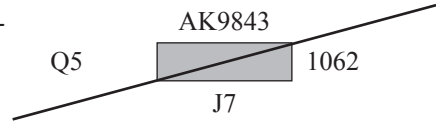


Jack is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick with the spot cards.

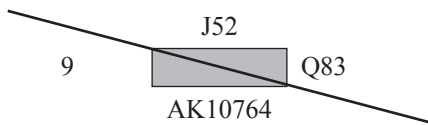


Queen is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick with the spot cards

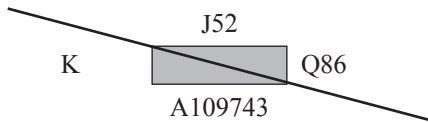
There is no other plan for declarer to apply and jack should be covered hoping for East to take a trick with ten.



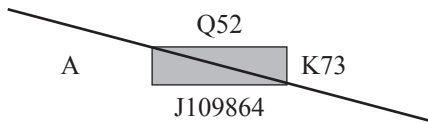
- If the suit played is known to be at least nine cards with the opponents..



Honor is not covered due to not having any chance for a trick. Declarer is likely to cash ace and king.

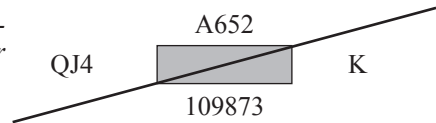


Honor is not covered due to not having any chance for a trick.

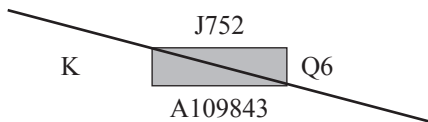


Honor is not covered due to not having any chance for a trick.

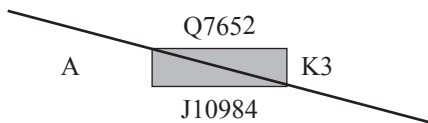
Even if the king is with declarer; he may insert the ace hoping to take all the tricks assuming 2-2 distribution; honor is not covered.



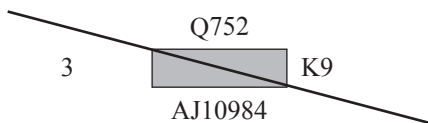
- * If it is known that the suit is at least ten cards with the opponents.



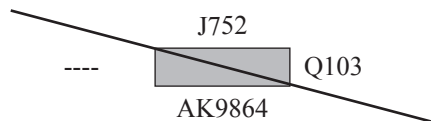
Honor is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick.



Honor is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick.



Honor is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick. Declarer may insert the ace to drop the king!.



Honor is not covered since there is no chance to win a trick. Declarer is likely to insert high honor from hand.

RULES TO BE OBEYED AT DEFENSE

Need to pay attention to play the cards with same tempo at defense. The defensive player at the third or fourth position, can lead the partner by giving 3-5-8-9 type of cards on the trick won by declarer or his partner! This application is not against the rules besides “partner, pay attention, I am giving a signal to you” type of hesitations.

The defensive player at the second position, should analyze the condition of all the suits and be prepared for the card to play when opponents played honor or a small card. Thinking for to take the trick is normal; but without a sure winner, hesitating will give information about the distribution to the opponents and make life easy for them. In spite of this, thinking whether to apply Cover or Not rule over an honor played from his right is not against the normal methods. The disclosure of his hand and giving advantage to the opponents by a player is playing error but thinking for to mislead the opponents is not to be done. This behaviour is a preperation to steal a trick. The player’s excuse for thinking without a higher card later to state “thought whether to give the six or four” can’t be acceptable.

A player pausing due to thoughtfulness, tiredness or for another reason, should inform that there is no higher honor in his hand before playing. Obviously the player pausing with a higher honor doesn’t need to make this kind of explanation. Declarer should assume that the opponent has a higher honor and call the director if opposite happens. After this development, showing the truth by the other player in defense, the apology by the side with the mistake and accepting the director’s decision can end all the issues.

Getting Hunted While Going to Hunting

No : 1	KQ97	Ozdil	W	N	E	S
D : N	AT4			1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Vul : None	J63		Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
	A52		All Pass			
♠ 854		62	Lead	: ♦K		
♥ 862		9753				
♦ KQT9		A87				
♣ Q73		9864				
	AJT3					
	KQJ					
	542					
Cover or Not	KJT					

Defense cashes three diamonds and returns a trump. Declarer wins from hand, plays heart jack, inserts the heart ace after West hesitates, enters his hand with the third trump and plays club jack. West immediately gives small! Catching the queen of the player who thinks without anything in his hand is not hard. Declarer lets go the jack of clubs and reaches his goal.

A Lesson From the Expert

John Collings who won the 1969 Sunday Times tournament, finished the 1981 European championship at the second seat with English national team. The response of this expert player in the Marbella Tournament to his sponsoring partner over his untrue behaviour is like a lesson for the players and their partners who are trying to steal tricks with similar manner.

No : 2 D : E Vul : NS		K842 K654 AT3 K5	Ozdil	W	N	E	S
♠ 63 ♥ QJ97 ♦ 74 ♣ QJT82		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	Q75 T83 QJ2 A964	Pass Pass Lead	1♥ 4♣ : Q♣	Pass Pass All Pass	1♦ 1♠
Cover or Not		AJT9 A2 K9865 73					

Defense takes two clubs and returns a heart. Declarer wins with the ace and plays spade jack. Gives small from dummy when West thinks, wins the trick then realize the contract after cashing ace and king of spades.

“Partner, why didn’t you take the spade queen?” John Collings sitting East, gives the following answer to his partner “I assumed you have the queen, since you thought so much”.