

Play of the hand: Finesse

A finesse is an attempt to score a lesser honour which could be beaten by an opponent's higher honour. You are hoping the critical missing honour is favourably placed.

Lead towards the honour or honours – if the missing critical honour is in the hand that plays second, then the finesse will succeed.

1. You need to make one trick in the following example:

K83 974

If the critical honour (ace) is with South you will succeed in making 1 trick as long as you lead from the East hand towards the king.

2. You need to make 2 tricks in the following example:

AQ3 974

If the critical honour (King) is with South you will succeed in making 2 tricks as long as you lead from the East hand and insert the Q if the K does not appear.

3. You need to make 3 tricks in the following example:

A83 QJ10

If the critical honour (king) is with South you will succeed in making 3 tricks as long as you lead the Queen from the East hand towards your ace and play low if the king does not appear from South. If the Queen wins, repeat the process with the jack.

4. You need to make 3 tricks in the following example:

AQJ 974

If the critical honour (king) is with South you will succeed in making 3 tricks as long as you lead from the East hand towards the jack. If it wins return to the East hand and lead towards the queen.

5. You need to make 2 tricks in the following example:

KQ3 974

If the critical honour (ace) is with South you will succeed in making 2 tricks as long as you lead from the East hand towards your honours twice. If the king wins return to the East hand and lead towards the queen.