

Count your losers

Only the first three cards in any suit are potential losers.

♠AQ9864 With this spade suit we can ignore the 864.

3 card suits

Looking at just the first three cards in a suit then, an ace will never be a loser.

♠A76 = 2 losers.

A King in a three card suit is not a loser because when the Ace is played you can throw a small card, keeping the King.

♠K76 = 2 losers.

A Queen in a three card suit is not a loser either because even when the Ace and King are played your Queen is still there.

♠Q76 = 2 losers.

So assume each Ace, King or Queen in a 3 card suit is going to take a trick and count the other cards as losers.

♠AQ6 = 1 loser

♠KQ6 = 1 loser

♠AK7 = 1 loser

And remember that only the first three cards in any suit are counted as potential losers.

♠AQ6432 = 1 loser

♠KQ653 = 1 loser

♠AK75 = 1 loser

2 card suits

If you have a 2-card suit, you have 2 potential losers. A Queen will fall on the second round so it's counted as a loser.

♠A2 = 1 loser.

♠K2 = 1 loser.

♠Q2 = 2 losers.

1 card suits

Count a singleton as a loser unless it's the Ace.

♠K = 1 loser.

♠7 = 1 loser.

♠A = 0 losers.

Count your total losers

Count the losers in the following hand...



1 spade loser, 1 heart loser, 2 diamond losers and 1 club loser.
total = 5 losers.