



PROMOTION and FINESSE *Preparation for Play and Review*

Week of Aug 11, 2020

PROMOTION AND FINESSES

We will study Play of the Hand more formally in October – November.

For now, some reminders about two Play of the Hand techniques that might help you as we move forward.

PROMOTION

You have a suit that looks like this: ♣ K Q J 8

This is a suit that is missing the highest honor (♣A).

Sometimes you have a suit that missing the 2 highest honors.

You do have lower-ranking honors or good spot cards.

You would like to turn some of the lower-ranking honors into winners at some point in the Play of the Hand.

You need to bravely play a high card to push out an even higher card out of the Opponents hands, thereby **promoting** the lower-ranking honors to winners.

Example:

You hold ♣ K Q J 8 The Opponents hold the ♣A.

You would need to use one of you honors to push out the ♣A. You play your ♣K.

Why the ♣K and not the ♣Q or ♣J?

Yes- they are the same value as the King.

But what is your goal here? You want an Opponent to play the ♣A.

If that's your goal, the best way to entice the Opponent is by dangling the King in front of them.

Aces are meant to take Kings, first and foremost.

So, you play the ♣K, and now an Opponent plays the ♣A.
The Opponent has won this trick.

Now, your ♣Q and ♣J have been **promoted** to winner status.

In fact, by the time you get to the 4th round of Clubs, the ♣8 might be **promoted** to a winner if the Opponents have run out of Clubs.

Summary: You are bravely giving up your King to the Opponents.
 You are then creating extra winners in this process.

Promotion works 100% of the time in creating extra winners when you hold the intermediate honors and are missing the highest honor(s).

Yes, you must lose your King to the Ace, but then the Queen and Jack are successfully promoted 100% of the time in a NT contract.



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SIMPLE FINESSE

Finessing helps you to create extra tricks by relying on the favorable position of your missing honors.

A Simple Finesse has a 50% chance of working.

A more thoughtful finesse requires more consideration and may have different requirements.

How to Make a Simple Finesse:

- You have higher honors, a 'gap,' and then lower honors.

e.g., A Q 7 3 You have Ace and Queen. You have a 'gap' – missing the King.

- Lead a small card from the opposite side of the table, leading THROUGH the Opponent you hope has the missing honor – the *onside* Opponent.
- If the Opponent plays a small card on the trick, you put in your lower-ranking honor – the one below the gap.
 - If the missing honor is onside, your lower honor wins the trick.
 - If the missing honor is offside, well...you and everyone else who attempts the finesse will find that out.

Example:

You hold ♣ A Q 7 3 in North

And ♣ 6 4 in South

The Opponents hold the ♣K.

You hope the King is on your LEFT (onside in this case).

The reason you hope ♣K is on your left is because you need to play toward the gap.

That means you will start with the ♣4 in South.

If the person on your left plays a low Club, you bravely play the lower honor in North - ♣Q

If LHO had the King but played low (onside), your ♣Q just won the trick.

Now your Ace is good, and you've won 2 tricks in this suit.

If RHO has the King (offside), well RHO was always going to win your Queen.

RHO was going to wait until your Queen was played before playing his King.

You have a 50% chance of making a Simple Finesse.