

# COVER an HONOR

- **Aces Cover K's & Q's:**
  - Avoid leading an Empty Ace (unsupported by K), unless it in partner's suit. You want to catch K's & Q's, not 2's & 3's.
  - Ok to lead an empty Ace when opponent's are at the 5-6-7 level, especially if in long suit.
  - Never underlead an Ace against a Suit contract on Opening lead.
  - It's ok to Underlead an Ace against NT as you are trying to establish your 4+ card suit.
- **Cover an Honor with an Honor in General.** One exception is when declarer has a 2-way guess for your Q. Some other exceptions occur below.
- **Dummy is Long:**
  - Cover the Last Honor in a Sequence Unless you get Short: Kx must cover now.
  - Dummy QJ107x. You on right have K8xx. Wait & cover 10.
  - Dummy QJ9x. You on right have K8x. Wait & Cover J.
  - Dummy QJ10xx. You on right have Kx. Don't wait, cover Q.
  - If you cover the First dummy honor, declarer will gain when having stiff A or Ax.
- **Dummy is Short:**
  - Dummy Qx. You on right have Kx or Kxx. Cover.
  - Dummy Qx. You on right have K10xx. Cover to hold declarer to A & J only.
  - Dummy Qx. You on right have K9xx. Cover as partner may hold 10xx.
  - Dummy Qx. You on right have K8xx. Cover as partner may hold 9xx.
  - Dummy Qxx. You on right have Kxxx, Kxx or Kx. Cover as K can be picked up.
  - Dummy Qxx. You on right have K10xx, K10x or Kx. Cover to hold declarer to A & J.
  - Dummy Qxx. You on right have K9xx, K9x or Kx. Cover as partner may hold 10.
  - Dummy Ax. You on left have Kxxx. Do Not cover Q. Declarer cannot pick you up.
  - Dummy Axx. You on left have Kxx(x). Do Not cover Q, but wait & cover presumed J. Declarer may not have 10. You wait to cover J in case declarer started with QJ9. If you cover Q, he can finesse your partner for the 10. If you Wait & Cover the J, he cannot finesse your partner out of his 10. Trust declarer to have the J, as without it, he would lead up to Ace & then lead back toward his empty Q hoping to set it up, if K on right.
  - Dummy Axx. You on left have Kx. Cover Q as you are short.
  - Dummy J10x(x). You on right have Kxx(x) or Qxx(x). Wait & Cover 10.
- **Trumps:**
  - If you think or know declarer has 8 or 9 trumps & dummy has Jxx(x):  
If you have Kxx or Qxx, don't cover as partner may have stiff honor.  
If you have Kx, Cover as partner may have Q9x or A9x. Cover with Qx as partner may have K9x or A9x. If declarer has 8 or 9 trumps missing the A & Q, his correct percentage play is to finesse by passing the J, which is why it usually doesn't hurt to Cover with Qx.
  - If you think declarer has 10 trumps & dummy has Jxx(x): Don't Cover with Kx or Qx. Partner may have the stiff Q,K or A.
- **Plan Ahead as soon as Dummy Hits:** If Dummy is to your Right, look at each suit's Honors & yours & decide if you are going to Cover. If Dummy is to your Left, look at each suit's Honors & yours & Imagine Declarer leading an honor. Then decide if you are going to Cover.