

with a spade. South has six losers and will eventually lose them all unless you slip up by giving him help.

(7) ♠ K 10 4
 ♥ Q 5 4
 ♦ A K J 10
 ♣ J 8 2

♠ J 8 5 2
 ♥ A K J
 ♦ 9 7 3
 ♣ K 10 5

1NT

Partner gets off to the best start with the ♥10. You win the first three tricks. What now?

This should now be routine. Leads from your ♠J or the ♣K are both highly dangerous. Lead a diamond. You give declarer a free finesse he can always take anyway. This is the full deal:

 ♠ K 10 4
 ♥ Q 5 4
 ♦ A K J 10
 ♣ J 8 2

♠ Q 7 3 ♠ J 8 5 2
 ♥ 10 9 8 7 ♥ A K J
 ♦ 8 6 4 ♦ 9 7 3
 ♣ A 9 3 ♣ K 10 5

 ♠ A 9 6
 ♥ 6 3 2
 ♦ Q 5 2
 ♣ Q 7 6 4

(8)

 ♠ 10 4 3
 ♥ K 9 8 7 3
 ♦ 6 2
 ♣ K J 5 (You)

♠ Q 9 8 ♠ K 7 6 2
 ♥ 6 ♥ 4
 ♦ 10 9 8 5 ♦ A K Q J 4
 ♣ 10 7 4 3 2 ♣ Q 8 6

 ♠ A J 5
 ♥ A Q J 10 5 2
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ A 9

4♥

Partner leads the ♦10 and you take two diamond tricks. You have only one safe exit—a heart. Don't even think about a spade looking at

the ♠10 in dummy. Declarer has two spade losers unless you reduce it to one.

(9) ♠ A J 10 8
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ K 7 5 4
 ♣ K J 7

♠ 4 ♠ K 9 2
 ♥ J 10 8 5 ♥ K 6 4 2
 ♦ A J 9 3 ♦ 10 6
 ♣ 10 4 3 2 ♣ Q 8 6 5

 ♠ Q 7 6 5 3
 ♥ A 9 7
 ♦ Q 8 2
 ♣ A 9

4♠

You lead the ♥J, queen, king and ace. Declarer loses the spade finesse to partner's king and the ♥2 comes back. You win the ♥8. What now?

Leading either minor suit is way too risky. Partner's ♥2 showed four; therefore, declarer has another heart. Exit with the ♥10. Declarer has to come to you and has two inevitable losers.

(10) ♠ K 9 6
 ♥ 7 6 5 3
 ♦ K 9 8
 ♣ K 10 2

 ♠ 3
 ♥ K 10 8 4
 ♦ A J 5 2
 ♣ J 7 5 4

4♠

Partner leads the ♦4 and your first test is on this trick. You insert the ♦J and it holds. What do you lead at trick two?

Lead the ♥4. You are giving declarer nothing that he does not already have. He inserts the ♥Q and it holds. Declarer holds ♠AJ8754 ♥AQ2 ♦3 ♣A96 and has to lose three more tricks.

(11) ♠ K 10 7 3
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ Q J 10 9 2
 ♣ J 8

♠ 6 2 4♠
 ♥ A K 8 4 3
 ♦ K 7 5
 ♣ A 10 4

You start with the ♥AK and declarer ruffs the second round. Declarer draws trumps with the ♠AK with partner following. He now takes the losing diamond finesse to your ♦K. What now?

It seems that declarer can make his contract by discarding clubs on the long diamonds, and that the only hope is to find partner with the ♣K. But the right defense is to play safe and return a diamond. This is a case where you make a count of declarer's tricks. He started with five spades and one heart, meaning that he has seven minor-suit cards. He can dispose of five of them on dummy's diamonds, leaving him with two clubs. Give yourself the chance that partner has the ♣Q. Declarer's hand was ♠AQJ95 ♥2 ♦A86 ♣K732. He can discard two clubs but will be forced to lead up to his ♣K, which you will win.

In almost all of the above examples, dummy was almost perfectly balanced. That is the instant clue to pursue a passive defense. Another sound policy is when dummy is extremely weak, don't break new suits for declarer.

(12)	♠ J 8 5 2 ♥ Q 6 5 4 ♦ 9 8	♣ 7 6 5 ♠ 9 3 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ 7 6 3 ♣ J 4 3 2
(You)	♠ K 7 6 4 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ Q 5 4 2 ♣ A 9 8	♠ A Q 10 ♥ K J 3 ♦ A K J 10 ♣ K Q 10

Against South's 3NT, you lead the ♠4, won by declarer's queen. South cashes the king and jack of hearts. You signal count with the 2 and 8, and partner holds up. South now plays the ace and 10 of spades, you winning. What now?

The rule is that a defender should not lead new suits when dummy is weak. These leads just help declarer. So exit with your last heart! East wins and pushes through a diamond—up to dummy's weakness. The finesse loses, you're you get out with a diamond. South is left to lead clubs from his hand. When he leads the king,

you must duck the first round. Now the defenders take the last two tricks. Rule: when you are on defense, you generally want declarer to be on lead at trick twelve. Conversely, it is usually losing tactics for a defender to be on lead at trick twelve.

	(13)		
♠ Q 10 8		South	North
♥ 10 9 7		2♣	2♦
♦ Q 8 3		2NT	
♣ K J 5 2			

What is your opening lead?

The ♥10—trying to be as passive as possible. This is the layout:

		♠ 9 7 4 2	
		♥ 6 5 4 3	
		♦ J 10 4	
(You)		♣ 10 6	
♠ Q 10 8			♠ 6 5 3
♥ 10 9 7			♥ Q J 8
♦ Q 8 3			♦ K 9 6 2
♣ K J 5 2			♣ Q 7 3
		♠ A K J	
		♥ A K 2	
		♦ A 7 5	
		♣ A 9 8 5	

Any lead but a heart gives away a trick. This strategy must be continued throughout the deal. Declarer wins the ♥AK and leads a third round. Partner wins the ♥Q and leads a spade—his only safe play. If declarer finesses the jack, win and return a spade—avoid breaking a new suit. Actually, declarer's best play is win the ♠AK and to lead a third round forcing you to win. What do you lead at this stage, a club or a diamond?

A diamond is fraught with danger because it risks presenting an entry to dummy. So you shift to a club. This gives declarer a seventh trick, but that's all. A diamond switch would result in jack, king and ace. Now declarer can lead to dummy's ♦10 to enjoy his two major-suit winners, which otherwise will wither on the vine.

The very definition of passive defense is to MAKE DECLARER LEAD HIS OWN SUITS.

The Case for Active Defense

When dummy has a long suit which you can see is going to behave, it is right to take some risks to ensure that your side gets all its tricks.

(14)	♠ J 8 6 3		♠ K 9
	♥ 8 4		♥ A 9 5 2
	♦ Q 9		♦ K 5 4 3
	♣ A Q 10 7 4		♣ 9 8 3
South	North		
1♠	3♠		
4♣			

Partner leads the ♥Q which you win with the ace. What now? It is readily evident that you must shift to diamonds to take any available tricks in that suit before they disappear on the clubs. Even if partner does not have the ace, it may not matter if declarer wins a cheap trick with the ♦Q. He is likely looking at five club tricks, five trumps, the king of hearts and a heart ruff for 12 anyway.

(15)	♠ K Q J 10 5		(You)
	♥ A J 10		♠ A 4 3
	♦ A K		♥ K 6
	♣ 9 6 4		♦ 8 5 3 2
North	South		♣ K 10 8 7
1♠	1NT		
3NT			

Partner leads a heart to your king. What are your chances?

You have only one chance. Try the ♣10. Declarer had ♣QJxx and partner ♣Ax. Declarer will cover and partner will win and return a club to the ♣7 and ♣Q. Now when you gain the lead with the ♠A, king and 10 of clubs are the setting tricks.

(16)	♠ J 9		♠ A K Q 7 6
	♥ A 10 4		♥ K 2
	♦ A J 4		♦ K 8 6
	♣ K Q 10 9 4		♣ 8 5 3
4♥			

South opened 2♥ and North jumped to 4♥, freezing you out. Partner leads the ♠5, and you win the queen and ace. What now?

You have one more trick with the king of trumps. If partner has the ♣A, you will always get it, but what if declarer has the ♣A? Your only other chance is to find partner with the ♦Q. Grit your teeth and lead a diamond. Declarer's hand: ♠82 ♥QJ9763 ♦1073 ♣A6.

(17)	♠ A J 4		♠ 8 6
	♥ 8 5 2		♥ Q 7 3
	♦ K 4		♦ A 9 6 2
	♣ A K J 10 5		♣ 8 7 6 4
4♣			

Partner leads the ♦J and you win the ace. What now?

It looks like declarer may have 10 black tricks, the ♦K, and whatever he has in hearts. Your only chance is in hearts. Lead the ♥Q in the hope that partner has ♥AJ10.

(18)	♠ K Q 10 7 6		♠ A 9 2
	♥ A Q 6		♥ 7 5
	♦ K 9 3		♦ A Q 4
	♣ 7 6		♣ A 8 7 4 2
4♥			

South opens a weak 2♥ and North jumps to game. Partner starts with the ♣Q. You win the ace. Active or passive?

Dummy's spade suit is threatening. Your best chance is a low diamond with the hope that partner has the ♦J, or the 10 and that declarer plays low. Declarer's hand:

♠J 8 ♥K J 10 9 4 2 ♦J 7 5 2 ♣K.

(19)	♠ 6 5		♠ K Q 10 3
	♥ J 10		♥ Q 9 2
	♦ A J 6 5 4		♦ 7 3 2
	♣ 7 6 5 4		♣ K 10 8
4♥			

You lead the ♠K against South's 4♥ after he opened 1♥ and reversed in spades. Partner signals with the ♠9 and your king wins. What now?

Partner's high spade probably promises ♠J9x. If you play passively, declarer will ruff two spades with the jack and ten of trumps. Protect your spade tricks by shifting to trumps. The right one is the *nine*.

(20)

♠	4 2
♥	9 6 5
♦	Q J 10 7 3
♣	A K Q

♠	K 9 5
♥	A 4 3
♦	6 2
♣	9 8 7 4 3

3NT

Partner leads the ♠6 against South's 3NT and your king is won by declarer's ace. Dummy is entered and the diamond finesse loses to partner's king. Partner now leads the ♥2 to your ace. What do you return, a heart or a spade?

What if partner had led the ♥8 instead of the two?

The ♥2 asks for a heart return and the ♥8 would ask for a spade return.

(21)

♠	6 3
♥	A Q 9 5
♦	A Q J 10
♣	10 5 4

♠	A 8 5 4
♥	8 3
♦	9 6 2
♣	A 7 3 2

4♥

Partner leads the ♠Q and you win the ace? How do you plan the defense?

There are no tricks in the red suits. You must shift to a club and you should maximize your prospects by leading a low club, hoping to find partner with ♣KJx or ♣Kx.

(22)

♠	K Q J 9
♥	Q 6 3
♦	A K Q J 2
♣	8

♠	A 2
♥	K J 9 4
♦	8 6
♣	Q 7 6 4 3

4♠

You try the ♣3 and partner's king is won by declarer's ace. You win the next spade lead. What next?

This is another surround play. Lead the jack of hearts, hoping that partner began with the ♥A. Declarer will have to cover with dummy's ♥10x.