

Ducking as Declarer

Funbridge Masterclass

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- Reasons to duck
- Reasons to not duck

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- If it is one the opponents started, you can also use the term "hold up"

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So what are some reasons why you might need to duck a trick?

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e.g. LHO has overcalled 1♥ and you are playing in NT

Dummy: ♥ 432

LHO: ♥ KQJT6 RHO: ♥ 75

Declarer: ♥ A98

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If you duck, you can safely allow RHO to win a trick later because he will have no ♥ left for reaching his partner's hand.

Reasons to duck

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e.g. LHO has overcalled 1♥ and you are playing in ♠

Dummy: ♠ 8754 ♥ 43

LHO: ♠ 93 ♥ KQJT6 RHO: ♠ AT ♥ 75

Declarer: ♠ KQJ62 ♥ A982

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If you win the ♥A straightaway, RHO will still have a second ♥ and will be able to play it after winning the ♠A to reach his partner's hand. He will be able to overruff the dummy in ♥ when his partner plays a third round of the suit.

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If you win the ♥A straightaway, RHO will still have a second ♥ and will be able to play it after winning the ♠A to reach his partner's hand. He will be able to overruff the dummy in ♥ when his partner plays a third round of the suit.

If you duck, you are safe when RHO wins the ♠A because he will have no ♥ left for reaching his partner's hand.

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If you duck until RHO does play the ♥K, you will have removed that as an entry to his hand.

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If he plays the Q, you can win with the A and your J becomes a winner.

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With LHO forced to switch, your stop remains intact, giving you more time to work on your other suits.

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e.g. Playing in NT

Dummy: ♥ A32 ♣ 753

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Declarer: ♥ 984 ♣ J94

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Ducking is the "normal play" but it is not safe here as you have no ♣ stop.

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Since they have led the wrong suit, don't give them the opportunity to rectify it!

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Ducking might look harmless, since you have to lose a ♥ anyway, but it is not safe here as you know the ♥ are nearly always 7-1.

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Ducking might look harmless, since you have to lose a ♥ anyway, but it is not safe here as you know the ♥ are nearly always 7-1.

If you duck your ♥A, it will get ruffed on the next trick!

Now go to the
Ducking as Declarer tournament
and try the practice hands!