

## Notrump Play: Developing Suits BEFORE Opponent's Develop Theirs

**When is the biggest mistake in bridge generally made?** That's right!!!! At Trick **ONE**!!!!!!!  
That's why it is important to stop and **THINK** about what your tricks are and where you can develop additional tricks. This is especially important in notrump.

### First, identify the suit or suits you need to develop!!!!

So, how do we determine which suits to start with? Usually, it's the longest suit, but no always. Sometimes, it's the shortest. Why? Because it causes the opponent's to discard. Let's look at an example. (At this point, all we know is that the contract is in notrump. We do not know exactly what that contract is nor do we know what the opening lead is.)

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

### Now let's count winners between the two hands:

How many winners do you have in spades? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many winners do you have in hearts? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many winners do you have in diamonds? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many winners do you have in clubs? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total number of winners? \_\_\_\_\_

Which suit looks the best to develop? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How do you develop that suit? \_\_\_\_\_

**When deciding which suit to develop, it is, most often, the suit that will give you the most additional tricks!!!!** This does **NOT** include any tricks you may already have!!!!!!!

Second Example:

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

### Now let's count winners between the two hands:

How many winners do you have in spades? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many winners do you have in hearts? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many winners do you have in diamonds? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many winners do you have in clubs? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total number of winners? \_\_\_\_\_

Which suit looks the best to develop? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How do you develop that suit? \_\_\_\_\_

**Be Sure You Have Time To Set Up Your Suit!!!!!!!**

In the following hand, the contract is 3 NT and the opening lead is 5 ♥. This pair is playing fourth best leads. What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Now let's count winners between the two hands:**

How many winners do you have in spades? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in hearts? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in diamonds? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in clubs? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of winners? \_\_\_\_\_

How many additional tricks do you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Which suit looks the best to develop? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

With this opening lead, how many times can you afford to give up the lead? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you develop that suit? \_\_\_\_\_

**Now let's look at some suit development!!!!!!!!!!** The contract is 3 NT.

Hand #1: Opening Lead: Q ♣ (Likely from Q J 10 sequence ~ or a desperate defender!!!!)

North Hand	South Hand
♠ 4 3 2	♠ A 9 8 6
♥ 5	♥ K Q J 8 2
♦ A K J 6 5	♦ Q 8
♣ 9 6 3 2	♣ A K

**Now let's count winners between the two hands:**

How many winners do you have in spades? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in hearts? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in diamonds? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in clubs? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of winners? \_\_\_\_\_

How many additional tricks do you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Which suit looks the best to develop? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

With this opening lead, how many times can you afford to give up the lead? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you develop that suit? \_\_\_\_\_

Hand #2: North opened 1 ♦ and East overcalled 2 ♣ before North and South eventually arrived in a 3 NT contract played in the South. West leads the 10 ♣. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Now let's count winners between the two hands:**

How many winners do you have in spades? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in hearts? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in diamonds? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

How many winners do you have in clubs? \_\_\_\_\_ Which cards? \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of winners? \_\_\_\_\_

How many additional tricks do you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Which suit looks the best to develop? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

With this opening lead, how many times can you afford to give up the lead? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you develop that suit? \_\_\_\_\_

Who holds most of the missing HCPs? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know this? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think this means to making your contract? \_\_\_\_\_

Which suit do you think will lead to your being down if you try to develop it first? \_\_\_\_\_