

## Improve Your Play



# A Practice Finesse

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Some players take a finesse any time the opportunity presents itself. The strong declarers take only those finesses that are necessary.

	♠952		
	♥QJ93		
	♦J2		
	♣AQJ3		
♠KQ10		♠A873	
♥54		♥10	
♦K1087		♦96543	
♣K986		♣1052	
	♠ J64		
	♥AK8762		
	♦AQ		
	♣74		

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠K

### Bidding:

North invited game with a limit raise and good trump support, and South accepted.

### Play:

West led the ♠K, East encouraged. West continued with the ♠Q and a third spade to East's ace. East now switched to a low diamond and without much thought, declarer played the ♦Q to end up down one when the finesse lost.

This was not good bridge.

It didn't matter where the ♦K was located; the contract depended on finding the ♣K in the West hand. When the club finesse succeeded, a repeat finesse would allow declarer to eventually discard his diamond loser on the ♣A.

This was not a difficult hand, and declarer should have understood that the contract depended on the ♣K before playing to trick one. It shows the importance of playing the hand, not the suit.