

Uppercut/Trump Promotion

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An uppercut is a defensive play that involves one of the defenders ruffing high in the knowledge that an overruff by the declarer will result in the promotion of a trump card in his/her partner's hand into a winner.

This technique presents a type of trump promotion.

Example 1

	♠10975	
	♥A	
	♦6	
	♣—	
♠Q6		♠J2
♥6		♥—
♦54		♦32
♣8		♣95
	♠AK843	
	♥—	
	♦A	
	♣—	

Here Declarer is South, spades are trump.

West is on lead and plays a heart, covered by dummy's Ace.

East should ruff high with his Jack of spades.

Now, if South overruffs with the Ace or King, West's Queen will be **promoted into a Winner** and the defense is assured of an otherwise unavailable trick.

This is an **Uppercut or Trump Promotion**

Example 2

♠6
♥KQJ

	♦5	
	♣—	
♠J7		♠4
♥53		♥2
♦—		♦73
♣4		♣8
	♠KQ5	
	♥6	
	♦—	
	♣Q	

Spades are trump.

If the Declarer were on lead, he could draw trumps and claim the rest of tricks. However, East is on lead.

When he leads a diamond, Declarer has two unfavorable choices:

If he ruffs low, he will get **overruffed** by West. If he ruffs high (with an honor), West's ♠J will become a trick.

A Trump Promotion.