

Discovery Plays

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If you're declaring and you have an important guess to make in one suit, you may be able to collect extra information by using a **Discovery Play** before you attack the critical suit.

Declarer may need to test certain suits first by using all the **inferences and clues** from the auction, lead and signals before making a final decision on how to play a suit, or which finesse to take. He may get an idea of distribution before committing himself to a line of play.

If he can play other suits safely, to gain this information, he has made a Discovery play

Example 1: South is in 7NT. The ♠J is led. Declarer has 12 top tricks

♠64	
♥AJ5	
♦AQ8	
♣K10732	
♠J107532	♠98
♥986	♥1032
♦543	♦J1072
♣6	♣Q985
♠AKQ	
♥KQ74	
♦K96	
♣AJ4	

He has a 2-way finesse in clubs to make 13 tricks. Does he just take a 50-50 guess and or see who squirms the most?

No, he makes a **Discovery play!** By playing off all his spades, hearts and diamond winners, he will **Discover** that West held 6 spades, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds. That leaves just 1 club for West. Declarer should now play the King of clubs and take the marked finesse through East. **Count, count, count!**

Example 2: South is in 2♠

♠K1043
♥QJ109
♦J43

	♣73	
♠Q5		♠762
♥AK8		♥7643
♦10982		♦AK5
♣9642		♣A85
	♠AJ98	
	♥52	
	♦Q76	
	♣KQJ10	

West	North	East	South
	P	P	1♣
P	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♠	P	P
P			

West leads the ♥A, looks at the dummy and switches to the ♦10. East Cashes his ♦AK and plays a third diamond which declarer wins. He counts his losers, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club. He can't afford a spade loser. Who has the Queen? You have seen 7 HCP from East. You assume West held the ♥AK, that is 7 HCP. You still can't tell who holds the ♥Q.

Before pulling trump, see who has the ♥A. A **discovery play**.

East has it and passed originally .So, with his known **11 HCP**, he can't hold the ♠Q. That would give him an opening hand.

Play west for the Queen. **Count the points**, use the auction! ♣

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