

**Example 8**

A defender who holds A x x or K x x in the trump suit should almost always hold up his control for one round, and very often for two rounds. Here West holds up the ace of trumps for two rounds so that he can exhaust dummy's trumps and force the declarer to ruff.

<p>♠ 10 4 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ K Q 10 9 4 ♣ A Q 2</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	<p>♠ J 8 6 5 2 ♥ 5 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ J 10 8 6</p>	<p>♠ A 3 ♥ K Q J 10 8 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ K 5 4</p>
N		E							
W		S							

South is in four hearts and West leads the king of spades. As a switch to diamonds would threaten a ruff, South wins the first trick and plays on trumps, intending to force out the ace. West must decline to win both the first and second round of trumps, because if he does so there will still be a trump in dummy to take care of spade leads.

When South is allowed to hold the first two tricks in hearts he is in a quandary. If he plays a third trump the defence will win and continue spades. South will then run out of steam, for if he ruffs the third spade and draws the outstanding trump he will have no hearts left when the defenders come in with the ace of diamonds. Alternatively, South may broach diamonds when he finds the trumps 4—1, but this allows the defence to score a diamond ruff.

Oddly enough, it is easier for East to make a critical error than West. Noting West's two of hearts on the first round, he must place his partner with four hearts (with three West would have begun an echo) and keep enough spades to embarrass the declarer at a later stage. In fact, East's first two discards must be precisely a spade and a club. He must not let go a diamond, because then declarer can play on diamonds without incurring a ruff.

You see why it is fatal for East to let go two spades? South can force out the ace of hearts, ruff the third round of spades, draw the last trump, and lead a diamond. When East comes in with the ace of diamonds he will have no spade to play.

**Example 9**

A defender who holds A x x of the trump suit should always have in mind the possibility of weakening the declarer's trump holding. To achieve this, it may be necessary to present the declarer with a ruff-and-discard. The defence on the following deal is quite simple:

<p>♠ 4 ♥ J 6 4 2 ♦ Q 10 9 6 ♣ 10 8 5 2</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	<p>♠ A 5 3 2 ♥ A Q 10 9 7 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ K Q J 9 ♥ 5 3 ♦ J 7 3 2 ♣ K 9 4</p>
N		E							
W		S							

The bidding goes:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	—	1 ♠	1 ♥
1 ♠	pass	3 ♠	pass
4 ♠	pass	pass	pass

West leads the two of hearts and East makes the first two tricks with the queen and ace. Now it should be apparent to East (a) that if South has only four spades his trump position is open to attack, and (b) that a ruff-and-discard will not help the declarer, as he cannot have any losers in the minor suits. East, therefore, launches an attack on declarer's trump holding by playing a heart at trick three.