

Example 16

One of the most subtle ways of refusing to win a trick is by undertruffing in the trump suit. The play was not too difficult on this deal:

♠ 8 6 4 3	♠ A Q 10	♠ 9 7 5
♥ K 10 8 5	♥ 6 4 2	♥ —
♦ 3 2	♦ 9 7 5	♦ A Q J 10 8
♣ Q 10 5	♣ A J 4 2	♣ K 9 8 6 3

♠ K J 2	♠ —	♠ —
♥ A Q J 9 7 3	♥ —	♥ —
♦ K 6 4	♦ —	♦ —
♣ 7	♣ —	♣ —

East opened one diamond, South overcalled with two hearts, and North raised to four hearts. East, who was vulnerable, decided not to venture five clubs and West refrained from doubling, so four hearts became the final contract.

West led the three of diamonds and East, not liking the spade situation, decided that the best chance would be to find his partner with a singleton diamond. He went up with the ace and returned a diamond. South won, entered dummy with a spade, and led a low heart from the table. When East showed out, South played the ace.

Faced with the possible loss of two trumps and two diamonds, South tried to make additional tricks by ruffing clubs. He played a club to the ace, ruffed a club, entered dummy with a spade and ruffed another club. After a third round of spades the position was:

♠ 8	♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 10 8	♥ 6 4	♥ —
♦ —	♦ 9	♦ —
♣ —	♣ J	♣ —

♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ Q J 9	♥ —	♥ —
♦ 6	♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —	♣ —

On the next club East played the king and South ruffed with the queen of hearts. If West takes this trick with the king, obviously South will make two more tricks with the J 9. Equally, if West discards a spade the defence will be lost, for West will be obliged to ruff a diamond on the next trick. Instead, West must undertruff with the eight of hearts. East wins the next trick, and West is left with the K 10 of hearts over South's J 9.