

Trump control

er North. Contract: 4H by South.

♠ J
 ♥ A 7 3
 ♦ K 7 5
 ♣ A K J 7 3 2

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ K 10 5 3
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ A Q 9 6
 ♣ Q 8 6

♠ A 8 6
 ♥ K Q 9 8 5
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ 10 5 4

♣K! If East continues the suit declarer trumps and takes the club finesse. Once the first trick the defence are powerless, if South wins the opening spade lead. He has the ♥A and return to hand and draw the ♣Q guarded and offside, East can put the ♣ to make the lethal diamond switch.

The elementary concept of trump control. de-suit ace so that dummy's trumps can continue and simultaneously monitor communication between East and West. 'To the first trick' is excellent advice as this

47. E-W game; dealer South. Contract: 4H doubled by South.

♠ 7 5 4 2
 ♥ Q 6 4
 ♦ A 7 4 2
 ♣ A J

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ J 3
 ♥ K J 10 9 8 7
 ♦ K 8 3
 ♣ 10 2

The bidding

S	W	N	E
3♥	Double*	4♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(*For take-out)

West leads three top spades, East following suit. South ruffs and plays a heart to dummy's queen and East's ace. East switches to the queen of diamonds. How should declarer plan the play?

Triple squeeze

47. E-W game; dealer South. Contract: 4H doubled by South.

♠ 7542 ♥ Q64 ♦ A742 ♣ AJ	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ 986 ♥ A53 ♦ QJ ♣ 87654	♠ J3 ♥ KJ10987 ♦ K83 ♣ 102
N												
W	E											
	S											

The play

With precisely eight tricks on top declarer's only hope is a triple squeeze, the coup that produces *two* extra tricks. The diamond switch should be won in dummy and the trumps played out. This will be the position immediately before the last trump is cashed:

♠ 10 ♥ - ♦ 109 ♣ KQ	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ - ♥ - ♦ J ♣ 8765	♠ 7 ♥ - ♦ 74 ♣ AJ
N												
W	E											
	S											

Declarer plays the ♥J and West has an impossible discard. Suppose he throws a diamond, dummy does likewise and now the ♦K8 squeezes West in the black suits. Should West throw the ♠10 on the ♥J, dummy is entered with the ♣A and now the ♠7 squeezes West once more. Note that the ♦K is the entry to

declarer's hand, and that is why East's diamond switch was won in dummy.

The principle

The triple squeeze, or progressive squeeze as it is sometimes called, yields *two* extra tricks in the end-game. For this squeeze to be effective one player must guard three suits. When he has been squeezed out of one of his tricks pressure is continued with the established winner in what now becomes a simple squeeze.

48. Game all; dealer North. Contract: 6S by South.

♠ 862 ♥ A107 ♦ AJ4 ♣ AKJ5	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ AK10974 ♥ Q ♦ KQ3 ♣ Q82	
N												
W	E											
	S											

The bidding

	N		S
	1♣		1♠
	2NT		3♣
	3♠		4NT
	5♠		5NT
	6♦		6♠

West leads the ten of diamonds. On the ace of spades East throws the nine of hearts. How should South plan the play?