

DEVELOPING LONG SUITS
(in No Trump & in Suit Contracts)
by Maritha Pottenger

1. **Force Out Higher Honors**
QJ10xx opposite 9xx Give up two tricks (to Ace and King) and establish 3 tricks

2. **Duck a Trick**
AKxxx opposite xxx Give up one trick (playing low from both hands). If the suit breaks 3-2, you establish 4 tricks.

3. **Play Top Winners**
AKQxx opposite xx Play Ace, King, Queen. If the suit breaks 3-3, you get 5 tricks. If the suit breaks 4-2, give up the 4th trick to establish the 5th card as a winner.

4. **Finesse**
AQ109x opposite xx Finesse to the 9. Whether it wins or not, finesse to 10 next.
AJ109x opposite xxx Finesse to the 9. Whether it wins or not, finesse 10 next.
AKJ109 opposite xx(x) Cash Ace. Then finesse to 9.
AQxxx opposite xxx Duck one trick completely. Then finesse Queen.
Qxx opposite J9x Low to Queen. Then low to 9.
Kxx opposite J9x Low to King. Then low to 9.
K10x opposite xxx Low to 10. Then low to King.
QJ9 opposite xxx Low to Jack. Then low to Queen.
KQ10 Low to King. Then low to 10 (unless SURE Ace is in front of King-Queen)

AJ9 opposite xxx Low to 9. Then low to Jack.
Q109x opposite Axxx Ace. Then low to 10.
Q1098 opposite Axxx Run the 10 toward Ace. If it loses to Jack, run Queen next.
Axxx opposite KJ10x Ace, then low to the 10.

Suit Contracts Only

5. **Take a Ruffing Finesse**
Dummy has KQJ10x opposite your void. Play the King. If the Ace is played, trump and return to dummy to enjoy the long suit (discarding losers). If the Ace is not played, discard a loser. If the Ace is on your right, you lose no tricks. If the Ace is on your left, you lose one.

6. **Ruff to Establish a Long Suit**
Suppose that spades are trumps. You have pulled trumps and now have 3 spades in your hand, 1 small heart, 1 small diamond & 3 little clubs. Dummy has no spades, Ace of hearts, Axxxx of diamonds and AK of clubs. Play Ace of diamonds & ruff a diamond. Heart to Ace.

Ruff a 3rd diamond. Club to King. Ruff a 4th diamond. Club to Ace. Discard losing club on 5th diamond that is now good (if suit breaks 4-3 which is very likely).