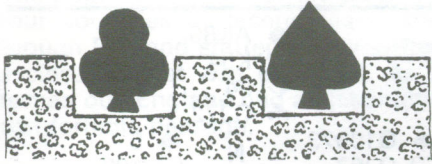


**FIRST TRY YOUR HAND AT THIS DEFENSIVE QUIZ, THEN TURN OVER THE PAGE FOR THE**

**C**areful counting will make anyone a good defender. When counting is augmented by anticipation — of one's own problems, of partners, and of declarer's — then a great defender is at work. Test yourself on these problems from pairs events. Then turn over the page to see how you would have fared.



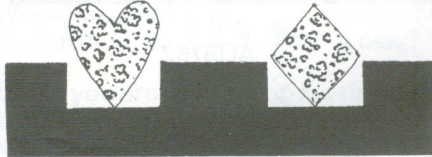
**PROBLEM 1**

*Love All. Dealer East.*

♠ AJ102  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ A103  
 ♣ 98765  
 N ♠ 98  
 W E ♥ A10763  
 S ♦ J94  
 ♣ AQ2

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♣J (normally showing the ten but neutral with respect to a higher honour). How do you conduct the defence?



**PROBLEM 2**

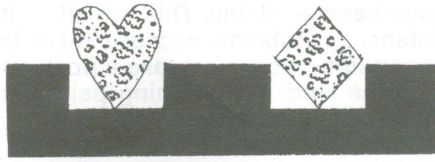
*East/West Game. Dealer North.*

♠ Q7  
 ♥ A8754  
 ♦ Q6  
 ♣ KJ85  
 N ♠ AK9  
 W E ♥ K1093  
 S ♦ KJ73  
 ♣ 62

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

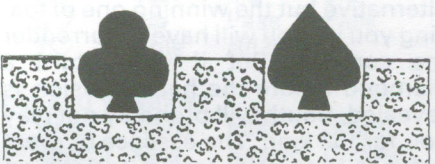
As you can tell from the sight of dummy, South's 2NT was forcing. West leads the ♠2. You play off three rounds of that suit, with declarer winning the third with the jack. Dummy release a small club on the third spade. Then declarer crosses to the

♣J and calls for a small heart. Plan your defence.



**ANTICIPATION**

by DAVID WEISS



**PROBLEM 3**

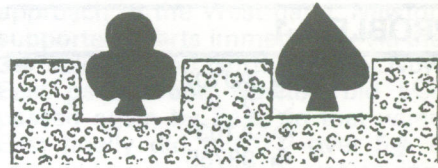
*North/South Game. Dealer South.*

♠ 6532  
 ♥ Q95  
 ♦ K7  
 ♣ AQ104  
 N ♠ K98  
 W E ♥ 6  
 S ♦ QJ10  
 ♣ KJ9632

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
3♣	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

A possible explanation of an odd auction is that North is a client. You had better defeat this contract, since making 7NT when the defenders hold at least 9 HCP will surely give South a top. The ♦Q is an obvious lead; partner plays the six under dummy's king, and South plays the seven. Declarer rattles off his 7-card heart suit. Part-

ner's first two discards are the ♣8 and ♣7 respectively, then he plays low diamonds; small spades are pitched from dummy. Exactly what will be your sequence of discards?



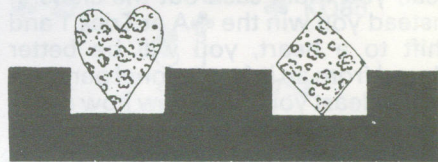
**PROBLEM 4**

*North/South Game. Dealer East.*

♠ AK86  
 ♥ K54  
 ♦ 94  
 ♣ QJ72  
 N ♠ 5  
 W E ♥ 108  
 S ♦ AQ10653  
 ♣ K1095

West	North	East	South
—	—	2♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

On West's dutiful lead of the ♦2, you cover dummy's nine with your ten; but declarer continues the covering process with his jack. Next South plays the ♣A and ♣3, partner following with the ♣4 and ♣6 respectively. Dummy's queen is put up, of course. What is your defensive plan?



**PROBLEM 5**

*Game All. Dealer North.*

♠ Q10  
 ♥ AQ9752  
 ♦ K1052  
 ♣ Q  
 ♠ 752  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ AKJ107632  
 N ♠ 8  
 W E ♥ 4  
 S ♣ AKJ107632

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Eschewing the safe (that is not subject to criticism lead), you demonstrate flair by leading your singleton diamond. Declarer wins the trick in hand with the nine and advances the ♣9. How do you deal with this surprising development. ▶



# SOLUTIONS

## PROBLEM 1

♠ AJ102			
♥ 2			
♦ A103			
♣ 98765			
♠ Q7543	N	♠ 98	
♥ J98	W	♥ A10763	
♦ 75	S	♦ J94	
♣ KJ10		♣ AQ2	
♠ K6			
♥ KQ54			
♦ KQ862			
♣ 43			

Any future for your side will have to come from the heart suit. But if you have no future? Declarer may well have lots of tricks on this deal. You can see at least three spades for him and your diamond holding is nebulous. The situation you must avoid is the one in which partner leads a low heart, because you will have little option but to win it and return the suit. The danger is that declarer's hearts are good enough for him to run away and hide.

If you play the ♣2 and partner holds the trick, he will surely shift to a heart at Trick 2. Will you know what to do after you win the ace? On the actual deal, you must cash out the clubs. If instead you win the ♣A at Trick 1 and shift to a heart, you will be better placed from an informational perspective; at least you may know how many tricks are available for you in the heart suit. However, you may have already blown the defence by letting a club get away while establishing declarer's secondary hearts. Suppose South has:

♠ Qx
♥ KJ9x
♦ KQxxx
♣ Kx

Normal play will now net him 10 tricks.

But if you make the best play at Trick 1, the ♣Q, declarer will not make more than 9 tricks. More importantly, as declarer's hand pattern is very much unknown to you, South will not get tricks to which he is not entitled. If your ♣Q wins, you will know that partner has the king and can defend accordingly. You can try a low heart; if partner wins that and returns one, cash out! If declarer wins the first club with the king, partner will have a high card elsewhere and you should know what to do by the time a decision is called

for. The queen play is likely to lose only when partner has led from J-x; surely a more attractive lead would have been available. This is a difficult defensive problem, because there is uncertainty; you must take a position of some kind. The winning pairs get these right somehow.

## PROBLEM 2

♠ Q7			
♥ A8754			
♦ Q6			
♣ KJ85			
♠ 10642	N	♠ AK9	
♥ J6	W	♥ K1093	
♦ 10542	S	♦ KJ73	
♣ 1074		♣ 62	
♠ J853			
♥ Q2			
♦ A98			
♣ AQ93			

The correct defence here is to win the ♥K and play a low diamond. This is unnatural and difficult to find, because declarer surely has the ♦A. In fact, all of the high cards are marked. How will declarer play if you defend passively? Suppose you instead return a club. South will win in hand, unblock the ♥Q and go back to dummy with a club. He will test the hearts; finding you with four of them, he will have no alternative but the winning one of tossing you in. You will have to surrender the contract. But if you return a diamond before the heart division is revealed, South will probably not play you for the king. The essence of great defence is to offer losing options on contracts that are destined to succeed.

## PROBLEM 3

♠ 6532			
♥ Q95			
♦ K7			
♣ AQ104			
♠ K98	N	♠ J74	
♥ 6	W	♥ 32	
♦ QJ10	S	♦ 865432	
♣ KJ9632		♣ 87	
♠ AQ10			
♥ AKJ10874			
♦ A9			
♣ 5			

Very early in the play you should realise that South has 12 tricks, and that if he has the ♠Q you will be squeezed for the 13th. You must keep three clubs to the bitter end. How can you persuade declarer to play for the finesse instead? He will probably have a perfect count of the hand at the crucial moment. Psychology is relevant here. Probably the best plan is to throw your two low spades as soon

as you become aware of declarer's seven-bagger. This might be what you would do to inform partner that he must keep spades guarded. Your discards should be then, two clubs, two spades, another club, and a diamond. This affords your best chance.

## PROBLEM 4

♠ AK86			
♥ K54			
♦ 94			
♣ QJ72			
♠ Q10973	N	♠ 5	
♥ QJ97	W	♥ 108	
♦ 2	S	♦ AQ10653	
♣ 864		♣ K1095	
♠ J42			
♥ A632			
♦ KJ87			
♣ A3			

You must duck this club smoothly; playing the ten is a good idea. Don't worry, partner will not be fooled because if declarer had another club he would eventually lead it toward dummy. When declarer next plays a diamond toward his hand, you should grab it (partner will discard a spade) to push through a heart. Note that if you take the club, it will both rectify the count, and lead to the removal of partner's exit card; he will collapse in the endgame.

## PROBLEM 5

♠ Q10			
♥ AQ9752			
♦ K1052			
♣ Q			
♠ 752	N	♠ A4	
♥ 8	W	♥ KJ1043	
♦ 4	S	♦ J876	
♣ AKJ107632		♣ 54	
♠ KJ9863			
♥ 6			
♦ AQ93			
♣ 98			

What's South doing here? Why aren't the trumps being drawn? Even dummy knows the opening lead was a singleton. Apparently South wants to ruff a club, so we know he doesn't have solid trumps and the ♥K. The winning counter is to play a spade after taking the club. Partner will win the ace and give you your ruff. Then you must exit with another spade. If instead of a trump you try a heart, declarer will ruff a second heart high and trump his losing club in the dummy. You will eventually secure your ruff, but you will not stop his. It is unusual to try for a ruff by shifting to a trump, but by reading South's mind you can find the winning play.