

PRACTICE YOUR FINESSES

Learn the proper way to play each of these finesses,
then use this page as your practice sheet.
Discussion of each follow on the next page.

AKJ A32 AJ10 KJ10 A876

54 QJ6 K75 432 Q54

A32 AQ10 K102 AQ2 K7

QJ10 432 J93 54 54

AJ2 AJ10 KQ2 AK32 A543

Q103 432 54 J954 QJ109

K102 AK32

AJ5 J7

- AKJ To win 3 tricks in this suit, play low from South and play the jack if West plays low.
54
- AJ2 To win 3 tricks in this suit, play West for the king. Lead queen from South and duck if West plays low.
Q103
- A32 The most you can win is two tricks. You can lead the Q toward North if you want, but if West covers, you still win only two tricks. Likewise, you can lead from North toward the QJ and you will still win just two tricks.
QJ6
- AJ10 To win 2 tricks in this suit, play for the two missing honors to be split between East and West. So play low toward the jack, expecting to lose, and then come back to South and play low toward the 10.
432
- AJ10 If you think West has the queen, lead from South toward North and play the jack if West plays low.
K75 If you think East has the queen, play the jack from North and play low from South. If East plays low. With these cards you can finesse in either direction.
- KQ2 To win 2 tricks in this suit, play West for the Ace. Play low from South toward the KQ. If you win, come back to South and lead again toward North.
54
- KJ10 To win 2 tricks in this suit, play low from South and play the jack if West plays low. If West has the queen and East the ace, then North's jack will force East's ace. Then get back into the South hand and play low toward your K10.
432
- AK32 To win 4 tricks in this suit, Cash the AK and hope that the queen falls. There is no possibility of finessing with these cards because West will cover your jack with the queen if you lead the jack toward the AK.
J954
- A876 To win 2 tricks in this suit, play low from North and play the queen if East plays low. If East has the king you win two tricks.
Q54
- A543 To win 4 tricks in this suit, play West for the king. Lead the queen from South and duck in North if West plays low.
QJ109
- A32 To win 3 tricks in this suit, play the queen from South and play low from North if West plays low.
QJ10 If West has the king, you win 3 tricks.
- K102 Here is another "two-way" finesse. If you can correctly guess which opponent has the queen, you can lead toward that player and play the middle card if that player plays low.
AJ5
- AQ10 To win 3 tricks in this suit, play low from South and play the jack if West plays low. If West started with king and jack, you will win 3 tricks. If, when you play the 10, East wins the king, at least your AQ will now win two tricks. If, when you play the 10, East wins the jack, come to your hand again and try to finesse the queen. As long as West has at least one honor, you will win two tricks with these cards.
432
- AK32 To win 3 tricks in this suit, play low from North toward the jack in South. If East has the queen, your jack will win now if East plays low, or it will win the 2nd time if East goes up with the queen.
J7
- K102 To win 2 tricks in this suit, West must hold the queen. Lead the jack and duck if West plays low.
J93 But if West plays the queen on the jack, cover with north's king.
- AQ2 To win 2 tricks in this suit, play low from South and play the queen if West plays low. West must have the king.
54
- K7 To win 1 tricks in this suit, play low from South and play the king if West plays low. West must have the ace.
54