

Swiss Teams Practice Set-Declarer Play

	North	South	
1.	♠-Axx ♥-AQx ♦-xxx ♣-Axxx	♠-KJxxx ♥-Kxx ♦-xxx ♣-KQ	Assume South plays 4♠. Defense cashes 3 diamonds, then shifts to clubs.
2.	♠-Axx ♥-Axx ♦-Kxx ♣-AJxx	♠-KJxxx ♥-KQx ♦-xxx ♣-KQ	Assume North plays 4♠. OL: ♣10
3.	♠-A9x ♥-AQx ♦-xxx ♣-Axxx	♠-KJxxx ♥-Kxx ♦-xx ♣-KQx	Assume South plays 4♠. Defense leads 3 rounds of diamonds.
4.	♠-KQx ♥-AKJ ♦-xx ♣-A109xx	♠-xxx ♥-xx ♦-AKQxx ♣-xxx	Assume North plays 3N. OL: ♠J to A. West returns ♠6.
5.	♠-xxx ♥-KJ8xxxx ♦-xx ♣-x	♠-AK ♥-A9 ♦-AKQJx ♣-Axxx	Assume North plays 6H. OL: ♣Q

Analysis

1. The only risk is losing a trump trick. Make the normal play of cashing the Ace, then finessing the Jack if East plays low.
2. You have potential losers in spades and diamonds. If you start with a spade finesse and it loses, you risk losing 3 diamonds. Cash the spade AK, club K, heart A, and discard diamond losers on club winners.
3. The only threat to your game contract is losing 2 spades when West holds Q10xx. The safety play to limit losers to 1 is to cash the spade King and lead low to the 9.
4. You have 8 winners. Your best line is to play for diamonds to be 4-2. Duck the first diamond to preserve your entry.
5. Protect against 4-0 trumps splits by ruffing a club, then leading a low heart to the 9.

