

One of the situations that is little understood by the average player is the partner's response to what is commonly known as a two-suiter. A two-suiter is a hand in which there are two suits that are equally good bids, and they are usually equal in both length and strength, a slight difference making it unnecessary to transgress the rule for bidding them.

There are three things the partner should understand about bidding two-suiters in order to be able to make the proper response. One is that the bidder does not care which suit is finally selected; another is that he does not want to hear about any other suit; and the third is that his hand is never suitable for a no-trumper.

For the partner's benefit, the two suits are named in a specified order, the higher ranking suit first. This is so that the partner need never increase the contract when he makes his selection of the suit he prefers. If the two suits are spades and hearts, the spades are named first, and then the hearts, if the opportunity offers.

Suppose the dealer to bid a spade, and second hand to bid two diamonds. The dealer's partner is not strong enough to assist the spades, and passes. The dealer now bids two hearts, and second hand passes. It becomes the duty of the dealer's partner to go back to spades, if that is the suit in which he is longer or stronger, or to let the heart bid alone if that suits him the better. He does not increase the contract if he prefers spades, as he need bid only two.

But the point that is continually overlooked by the average player is that he must make his choice. His passing the two-heart bid accepts that as the one better suited to his hand. His going back to spades would indicate that he had better help for spades.

In assisting the ordinary suit bid, if there are not at least four tricks in the hand, the partner passes. In choosing between two suits the strength of the hand has nothing to do with it, and the choice must be indicated regardless of whether there is a trick in the hand or not. Take this distribution.

♥—Q 10 7 2		♥—A 9 3
♣—A 9 3		♣—8 7 4
♦—8 7 4		♦—K 5 4
♠—K 5 4		
♥—K 8 6	Y	♥—A J 9 5
♣—K Q J 8 2	A B	♣—10 6 5 4
♦—K 9	Z	♦—Q 5 3
♠—9 8 2		♠—J 7
♥—4 3 ♣—7 ♦—A J 10 6 2 ♠—A Q 10 6 3		

Z dealt and bid a spade, A two clubs. Not having sufficient strength in high cards to assist the spades, as the ace of clubs is the only outside trick in the hand, and Y cannot trump anything, he passes. When it gets round to Z he bids his second suit, two diamonds, and A passes.

Y is now obliged to express his opinion as to which of the two suits named by the dealer would better suit his hand, and he is conventionally compelled to do this, whether he has strength enough for an assist or not.

The point is that he is not assisting, because an assist always involves an increase in the contract already undertaken by the dealer. If Z has said nothing about any suit but

spades, it would be necessary to bid more spades to overcall A's bid. As it is Y goes to two spades in this case, which is not increasing the contract, as Z has already bid to win two odd tricks, and Y considers it better to try to do that with a major suit for trumps. It is an easy game hand in spades by finessing diamonds twice, before leading trumps.

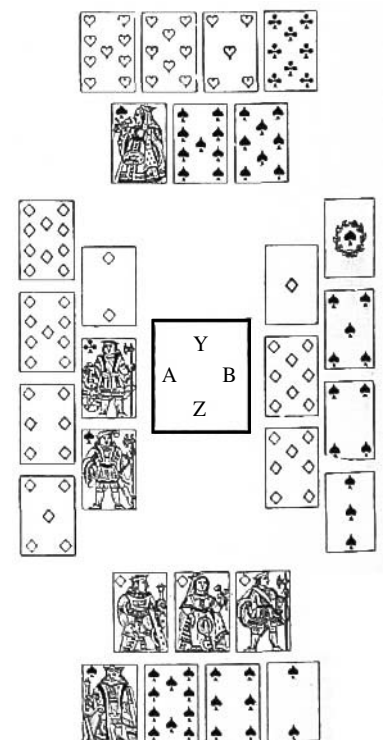
This was the distribution in Problem No. 12:

♥—K		♥—A 8 2
♣—9 7		♣—5 4
♦—4		♦—A
♠—10 7		♠—none
♥—K	Y	♥—7 5 4
♣—9 7	A B	♣—6
♦—4	Z	♦—none
♠—10 7		♠—5 3
♥—9 6 ♣—none ♦—10 9 ♠—9 8		

Hearts are trumps and Z leads. Y and Z want all the tricks. This is how they get them:

Z leads the spade nine, if A covers Y trumps and leads a club for Z to trump. Z leads the spade and Y sheds the ace of diamonds. Z then leads a diamond for Y to trump with the eight of hearts. Z trumps another club, and the ace of trumps kills A's king. If A passes up the spade nine, Y gets an immediate discard of the diamond, and Z leads another spade, making the end game the same as in the trunk play.

BRIDGE PROBLEM NO. 13



Hearts are trumps and Z leads. Y and Z want six tricks. How do they get them? Solution in the December number.