



# Adventures in Bridge

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## Trump Suit Management

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### General

The trump suit is often the most important suit. This is the one suit where all 13 cards are important – every card must be drawn or played significantly at some point in the hand. There are many important ways to use our trump suit (hopefully we have significantly more of them than the opponents do).

### Drawing Trump

#### Size of Trump Fit

- “8 Ever, 9 Never” – To take a finesse for the Q or not?
- The Principle of Empty Space – When not to follow the rules?
  - Making use of information from the auction.
- Larger Trump Fits – When to take a finesse and with which cards.
  - 10-Card Trump Fits
  - 11-Card Trump Fits
  - 12-Card Trump Fits

#### Card Combinations

- Leave the “master trump” outstanding?
  - When to force the opponents to ruff in with their master trump.
  - When to spend our trump and give up a loser to the opponents early.
    - Axx Kxxxx
- Safety Plays
  - Is a ruff from the opponents a danger or not?
    - Axxx KTxx



## Using Dummy's Trump

### *Ruff in the Short Side*

- 9-card fit vs. 8-card fit.
- Ruffing before drawing trump vs. after drawing trump.
- Partially drawing trump.
  - Give up side loser early. Set up transportation for using dummy's trump.

### *Maintaining Control*

- Give up a loser early
  - Variation on a Safety Play -- 9xx AKTxx.
- Loser on Loser Play
  - Try not to let the opponents shorten the long trump side.

### *Ruffing with Our Trump*

- 4-4 Fit
  - Partially draw trump (Ace and King for 2 tricks) and 2 ruffs in each hand – 6 trump tricks.
  - Using either side as the short side.
- 5-3 Fit
  - Partially draw trump and use dummy's final trump to ruff – 5 trump tricks.
- Having both a 5-3 fit and a 4-4 fit.
  - Flexibility of 4-4 fit.
  - Using dummy's shortness vs. using dummy's length.
- High Crossruff
  - When all our trump spots are better than the opponents'.
  - Cash side winners first so they do not get ruffed later.

## Dummy Reversal

When we are forced to ruff in the long side and the trump in the short side are powerful, we can use the short side trump to draw trump. Ruffing in the long side enough times to turn the long trump side into the short trump side.

## Advanced Trump Management

### *Using Dummy's Trump for Transportation*

- Setting up a long side suit in the dummy before drawing trump.
- Getting to dummy to take repeated finesses.