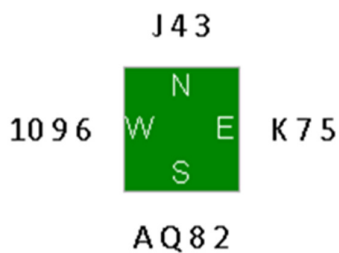


Covering Honours

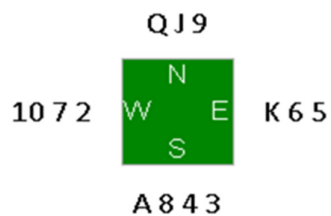
The reason for covering an honour with an honour is to promote lower cards into winners.



East should cover with the king when the queen is led from North. This will promote East's 10-9 combination into a trick. If East does not cover then the queen will win, and a further lead from North will pick up East's king and North-South will make four tricks in the suit.



East should cover when the jack is led from North. This will promote West's 10 into a trick. Failure to cover will result in East-West making no tricks at all in the suit.



If East covers when an honour is led from North then South could win with the ace and take a finesse against West's ten. East should duck when the first honour is led from dummy but cover when the second is led. In general, it is correct to cover when the last of touching honours is led.

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

	♠ A Q 10 8		
	♥ Q 4		
	♦ 7 5 4 3 2		
	♣ Q 4		
♠ K 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 7 6 5 2	
♥ 10 8 7 6		♥ J 9 3	
♦ Q 10 8		♦ J 9	
♣ A 10 7 5		♣ K J 9	
	♠ J 3		
	♥ A K 5 2		
	♦ A K 6		
	♣ 8 6 3 2		

South opens 1 NT and becomes declarer in 3 NT after Stayman establishes that North-South do not have a major suit fit. West leads the 5 ♣ and the defence takes the first four tricks. South has to make the remainder of the tricks. South has three tricks in hearts and two in diamonds. When South leads the J ♠ the contract will make if West fails to cover because declarer will make four spade tricks. If West covers the J ♠ with the K ♠ declarer will make only three spade tricks - East's 9 ♠ will be promoted into a winner.

	♠ 5 4 3 2		
	♥ K		
	♦ Q J 10 9 8		
	♣ J 6 5		
♠ Q 10 9 8	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K J	
♥ J 10 9 8 7		♥ 6 3 2	
♦ 7		♦ K 6 4 3	
♣ Q 9 2		♣ K 10 8 7	
	♠ A 7 6		
	♥ A Q 5 4		
	♦ A 5 2		
	♣ A 4 3		

South becomes declarer in 3 NT after opening 1 ♣. West leads J ♥ and dummy wins. When a diamond is led from dummy East should not cover because they can see that this would give declarer five diamond tricks. If they play low on when diamonds are led from dummy declarer will have to play their ace on the third round.