

## Trump Contracts

1) A count of losers is made at the start of the hand -

{declarer}	{dummy}	4Sp K Hrts led
KQJ109	5432	There are four losers here.
A43	65	Sp: KQJ but no Ace = 1 loser
J9	AK76	Ht: A but no KQ = 2 losers
976	AQJ	Cl: AQJ but no K = 1 loser

2) The number of losers can potentially be reduced in one of 3 ways:

i) trumping in dummy ii) discarding losers iii) taking winning finessing

{declarer}	{dummy}	4Sp K Hrts led
KQJ109	5432	i) A small Hrt can be trumped in the dummy
A43	65	ii) A small Hrt can be discarded on winning diamonds.
J9	AKQ6	iii) A finesse of the Q Cl can be tried
976	AKJ	

3) Long suits { in the dummy } can be established-

{declarer}	{dummy}	4Sp Q Hrts led
AKQ109	J532	Declarer can draw trumps then play the Ace + King of diamonds followed by a small diamond that is trumped.
A43	K5	The remaining diamond(s) may be winners.
<b>32</b>	<b>AK976</b>	
976	QJ	

4) Poor trumps are still best drawn

{declarer}	{dummy}	4Sp Q Hrts led
<b>K543</b>	<b>Q762</b>	Declarer must lead to one trump Hon and if it wins , to play towards the other Hon and duck.
AK3	65	e.g <b>3</b> to the <b>Q</b> ; then , <b>2</b> to the <b>4</b>
QJ2	K1098	
K76	AQJ	

5) Eight card trump holdings and nine card trump holdings

i) **eight** ever finesse (if missing the Q ) ii) **nine** never finesse (if missing the Q )

{declarer}	{dummy}	4Sp K Hrts led
<b>AKJ8</b>	<b>5432</b>	i) <b>AKJ8</b> <b>5432</b> lead the 2 to the J
A43	65	ii) <b>AKJ86</b> <b>5432</b> lead the Ace + King
Q96	AK72	
976	AQJ	