

## **OBVIOUS SHIFT**

From Dave Vidaver

Notes:

1. We play low encourages.
2. Honors include AKQJT.
3. In determining the obvious shift suit using the criteria below: When you have to choose between two suits that equally match the criteria, always choose the lowest ranking suit over any higher ranking suit.
4. The obvious shift suit is NEVER a suit bid naturally or implied by DECLARER. It can be a suit bid naturally by dummy.
5. One goal/advantage is to help partner know it's safe to lead away from K or Q.
6. Partners must decide what carding is when outcome of first trick is obvious (e.g., singleton ace on the board); does the card played by partner of opening leader give suit preference or obvious shift suit or something else?

### **Q: When opening leader faces her card, do you want her to switch suits after trick one?**

If **NO**, play your lowest card to encourage her to continue.

If **YES**, play a high card to encourage her to switch.

In a **SUIT CONTRACT**, indicate WHAT SUIT TO SHIFT TO using the following criteria:

1. If only one partner has bid during the auction, shift to that partner's suit. Note that a suit is assumed to have been bid in an auction such as (1M) 2M where the "suit" is the other M.
2. If both partners have bid during the auction, shift to opening leader's suit.  
[Deduce that opening leader's suit will always, therefore, be the obvious shift suit if she bid.]
3. If neither partner bid, evaluate dummy's holding and switch to the suit that has the first of:
  - a. 3-card suit Hxx
    1. xx
    2. Hx
    3. HH (never AK)
  - c. 3-card suit
    1. xxx
    2. HHx
    3. HHH (never AKQ)
  - d. 4-card suit
    1. xxxx
    2. Hxxx
    3. HHxx
    4. HHHx (never AKQx)

In a **NO-TRUMP CONTRACT**, indicate WHAT SUIT TO SHIFT TO using the following criteria:

1. If only one partner has bid during the auction, shift to that partner's suit. Note that a suit is assumed to have been bid in an auction such as (1M) 2M where the "suit" is the other M.
2. If both partners have bid during the auction, shift to opening leader's suit.  
[Deduce that opening leader's suit will always, therefore, be the shift suit if she bid.]
3. If neither partner bid, evaluate dummy's holding and switch to the suit that has the first of:
  - a. 3-card suit Hxx
  - b. singleton
    1. x
    2. X
  - c. 2-card suit
    1. xx
    2. Hx
    3. HH (can be AK)
  - d. 3-card suit
    1. xxx
    2. HHx
    3. HHH (never AKQ)
  - e. 4-card suit
    1. xxxx
    2. Hxxx
    3. HHxx
    4. HHHH (never AKQx)

Things to consider when asking for a switch:

1. Dummy has A and you have K or Q
2. Dummy has K and you have A (with J?)
3. Dummy has Q or less or nothing in a suit and you have A or K
4. When partner of opening leader is known to hold 5 or more cards in a suit, she might play 2nd or 3rd lowest in an attempt to encourage a shift to the non-obvious suit.