**Part II Defending Against Notrump Contracts**

Chapter 5 Defending Notrump in **Second Seat**

1. Try to determine which honors declarer holds. Remember the Rule of 40 and consider how many points partner is likely to have. Try to find a way into partner’s hand so that partner can lead through declarer to your strength. (problem 18)
2. Try to determine declarer’s distribution. Choose your discards carefully, especially if you hold a possible trick-taking card. Try to keep parity.
3. Don’t pull partner’s last card in your suit if you need a lead through declarer to set up your suit. Keep communication possible. (problem 20)
4. A sequence of three honors provides a good opening lead. Remember to lead from the top. (problem 21)
5. Split your honors. (problem 21)
6. Lead the suit partner bid. Partner may (duck) and allow declarer to take the first trick in order to preserve the possibility that you can lead the suit again if you get in. *(When overcalling, remember that you are suggesting a lead to your partner – who will expect a decent suit.)* (problem 22)
7. Cash the setting trick at the first opportunity. (problem 23)
8. If partner returns a high card, consider whether you can afford to overtake it in case it’s his last card in the suit. (problems 25 and 29)

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Chapter 6 Killing Declarer’s Communications

1. Give an **attitude** signal when **partner leads:**

high = encouraging and low = discouraging.

1. Give **count** when **declarer leads** from either hand: high = even, low = odd.

(problem 30)

1. Develop the habit of watching for partner’s signals.
2. **Giving count** and **holding up** are essential defensive strategies. (problems 31-33)
3. When declarer has limited entries to a long suit in dummy, giving count is essential in the event your partner has a stopper. (problems 31-33)
4. If **you** have a stopper for a long suit in dummy, paying attention to partner’s count signal is essential so that you know how long to hold up. (problem 34)