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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

11/14/2009 East-West vulnerable. North deals.

	NORTH A J 7 6 4 A K Q 9 Q 10 8 3	
WEST 4 K J 8 7 2 10 8 6 5 7 6 2		EAST K 10 8 5 A 10 9 3 7 4 3 5 4
	SOUTH Q 9 6 3 2 Q 5 J 2 A K J 9	

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 Spade 4 Spade	--- Pass All Pass	1 Club 2 Spade	Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of

Given normal play, there are many situations where declarer or a defender cannot go wrong. Under such circumstances, you can do wonders for your side by creating a false picture of the hand. Here's an example of what we mean from a national pairs championship.

With a double fit and an opening bid facing a partner who has opened the bidding, South's jump to four spades was automatic. Game was unbeatable against any 3-2 trump division, and had play opposite many 4-1 splits – if declarer could divine which defender held the trump length.

West led a heart to East's ace and won the heart return with the king. A third round of hearts would have been the best defense (the ruff-sluff would not help declarer at all), but West can hardly be faulted for shifting to a club. Declarer won in hand and led a trump to the jack, and East set the stage for the denouement by producing the eight!

Had East followed with the five or won with the king, declarer would surely have continued with the ace of spades next, losing only one trump no matter what East did. But the eight had a mesmerizing effect, suggesting that West held four trumps. It also offered declarer the chance of avoiding a trump loser by smothering the ten had East started with 10 8 doubleton, an important consideration in a pairs event. Declarer came to hand with the jack of diamonds and led the queen of trumps. When West discarded a heart, declarer learned too late that East now held two trump tricks – down one.

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