

Loser On Loser



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Discarding a losing card on a losing card has been the fundamental element of play since the days of Whist. The concept is straight forward, since it is the act of playing a card that must be lost (loser), on a losing trick in some other suit, (loser), but may vary in its context. Below, you can discover several of the variations of the concept, in order to better recognize the circumstances surrounding a Loser On Loser play.

Example 1

♠AJ652	
♥432	
♦53	
♣A74	
♠Q3	♠K10874
♥65	♥87
♦KQJ982	♦A6
♣Q108	♣J532
♠9	
♥AKQJ109	
♦1074	
♣K96	

The contract is 4♥. Declarer is South. The lead by West is ♦K. The declarer plays low from the dummy and East overtakes with the ♦A, knowing that his partner has the ♦Q. East plays his second diamond on the second trick, and West wins. South, the declarer, knows that West will produce a diamond on the third trick for East to trump. Since the dummy contains only small trump cards, East will be able to overtrump. South also has a losing club trick. South therefore throws a losing club trick from the dummy on the third trick. South can later ruff the losing club trick in his hand in the dummy. This variation is known as **Allowing a Safe Ruff to Produce a Trick**.

Example 2

♠A3	
♥5432	
♦65	
♣A7642	
♠Q5	♠J86
♥AK10	♥QJ96
♦Q10874	♦J92
♣KJ10	♣Q53

♠K109742
 ♥87
 ♦AK3
 ♣98

The contract is 3♠. Declarer is South. The lead by West is ♥A. West leads the ♥K and the ♥10 on the second and third trick respectively. South ruffs the third heart, cashes the ♦A and ♦K, and ruffs the small diamond in the dummy on the sixth trick. The seventh trick is the deciding trick for South. If South cashes the ♣A and leads another small club, then East will win in order to lead another heart, which will create a situation where the defense will gain two trump tricks. The trick is to play a Loser on Loser. South plays the ♣A and then leads a small heart and discards the losing club. East wins the trick, but is now forced to lead. This variation is known as **Allowing a Safe Re-Entry**.

Example 3

	♠-	
	♥AKQ7	
	♦107653	
	♣J743	
♠J4		♠A532
♥J94		♥10865
♦KQJ4		♦98
♣K1082		♣A95
	♠KQ109876	
	♥32	
	♦A2	
	♣Q6	

The contract is 4♠. Declarer is South. The lead by West is ♦K. South wins the first trick with the ♦A, crosses to the dummy with a small heart and plays three rounds of hearts, discarding his losing diamond. In the case that South, on the fifth trick, does not play the last heart in the dummy to discard a losing club trick in his hand, then the defense wins two club tricks, one definite spade trick, and the possibility of promoting the jack of trump, held by West, as a winner after East obtains the lead to play his last small heart for West to ruff. This variation is known as **Preventing a Later Overruff Threat**.

Example 4

	♠KJ	
	♥AK4	
	♦A7432	
	♣J106	
♠A642		♠7
♥-		♥J1098765
♦J1098		♦KQ
♣AKQ83		♣542
	♠Q109853	
	♥Q32	
	♦86	
	♣97	

East	South	West	North
3♥	P	P	Double
P	3♠	P	P
P			

The contract is 3♠. Declarer is South. The lead by West is ♣A. South is definitely certain that West is void in hearts as deduced from the auction and counting his heart cards. West wins the first trick and the second trick with the ♣K. On the third trick, West leads the ♣Q. South realizes that East must be prevented from gaining the lead and leading a heart. On the third trick, South therefore discards a loser on a loser and plays a small diamond. This variation is known as **Preventing a Particular Opponent from Gaining the Lead.** ♣