

UDCA

Upside Down Count & Attitude



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DEFENSE IS ONE OF THE HARDEST PARTS OF THE GAME OF BRIDGE TO MASTER.

One of the key ingredients to a successful defense is good signaling tools. Remember, bridge is a partnership game. You need to have firm agreements as to what your signaling methods mean.

Our primary signal to partner is usually attitude, do we like the lead or not. We are going to be reviewing UDCA today, UPSIDE DOWN COUNT AND ATTITUDE.

It reverses how you show attitude and count. In standard carding you play HIGH–LOW when you like a lead or suit. In *UDCA* you play LOW–HIGH if you like the lead or the suit. **When discarding you also play a low card if you like the suit and a high card if you don't.**

Most expert players play upside down count and attitude because it usually **avoids wasting a high card to signal a positive attitude.** Many times, those high middle cards can be costly to signal with.

However, on opening lead you still lead high–low to show a doubleton. For example: if you held the ♠96, you would lead the ♠9 as in standard.

Example: A

NORTH	
♣A6	
WEST	EAST
(Partner)	(You)
Lead:♣K	♣J1042

Partner has most likely led from the ♣KQ, and you like the lead. You don't need to waste the Jack.

With UDCA You can play the ♣2, encouraging.

Example: B

NORTH
♣1086

WEST	EAST
(Partner)	(You)
Lead: ♣K	♣J93

Here you don't want to play the ♣J or the ♣9 to encourage; you have surrounding cards over the ♣108.

With **upside down** you can play the ♣3.

Example: C

NORTH	
♣972	
WEST	EAST
(Partner)	(You)
Lead: ♣K	♣J43

Again, you don't want to waste the Jack to encourage. You can comfortably play the ♣3.

Example: D

Contract: 4♠

NORTH		EAST	
(Dummy)		(You)	
♠KQ93		♠742	
♥743		♥ <u>10</u> 82	
♦K53		♦AQ4	
♣A85		♣7632	
Lead: ♥A			

Partner leads the ♥A. In standard carding, you would play the 2 to **discourage** and perhaps show an odd number.

If you had a doubleton in standard, you would play HIGH-LOW. In **UDCA**, we play **LOW-HIGH** to encourage with a doubleton or Q82. With this holding we can play the ♥10, discouraging and it's not likely to cost a trick.

If Partner continues with the ♥K, we now play the ♥8. This now becomes a **suit preference** card!

We want partner to switch to a diamond. We don't always have a holding that gives us a chance to show **suit preference** but when we do, it comes in handy. ♣