Card Placing By Assumption
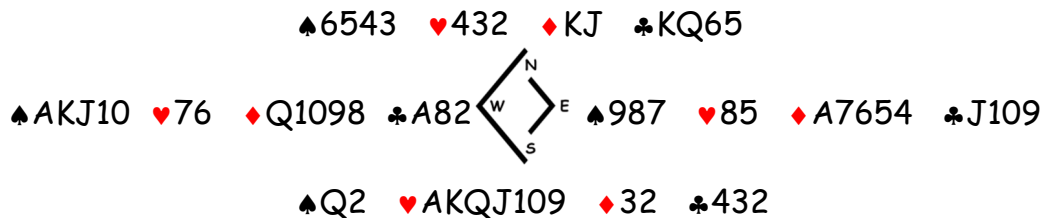
Last Revised May 19, 2016
by Warren Watson
Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club
http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaDeclarerPlay/CardPlacingByAssumption.pdf

BM2000-2B25

♠6543　♥432　♦KJ　♣KQ65

♠AKJ10　♥76　♦Q1098　♣A82　♠987　♥85　♦A7654　♣J109

♠Q2　♥AKQJ109　♦32　♣432

W	N	E	S
1♦	P	2♦	2♥
P	3♥	All Pass	

West plays his top three Spades and declarer ruffs the third one. In order to make 3♥, the ♣Ace must be onside. If West has the ♣Ace, he cannot have the ♦Ace or he would have opened 1NT. Therefore play East to have the ♦Ace. If East has both the ♦Ace and the ♦Queen, the contract had no chance anyways.
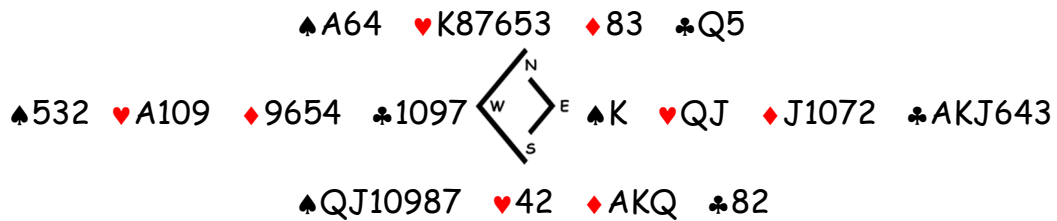
Card Placing by Assumption (ML p125)

Trick Knee, Wishful thinking, Occultism

When you cannot make a contract unless a certain card is in a certain place, then place it there and play accordingly.

Example 9:
p124:

♠A64   ♥K87653   ♦83   ♣Q5

♠532 ♥A109   ♦9654   ♣1097   ♠K   ♥QJ   ♦J1072   ♣AKJ643

♠QJ10987   ♥42   ♦AKQ   ♣82

N	E	S	W
	1♣	1♠	P
2♠	P	3♠	P
4♠	All Pass		

Declarer lost two clubs off the opening lead and won the ♦ switch. He played the ♠Queen to the Ace dropping the ♠King. He needed West to have the ♥Ace therefore he could not have the ♠King from the bidding.

Reference:
Lawrence, Mike, How to Read Opponents' Cards 2nd edition. Louisville, Kentucky: Devyn Press, Inc, 1973, 1986.