

# When To Cover An Honour

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Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

Warren Watson

## When To Cover

**Almost always. When in doubt cover an honour.** If you are being finessed, at the least, you can take one of the opponent's honours.

### A Losing Finesse:

♠A654      ♠Q732  
♠A654      ♠QJ32

A.            ♠K9  
♠A654      ♠Q732  
♠J108

B.            ♠J108  
♠A654      ♠Q732  
♠K9

When you run the queen through (a losing finesse no matter what), South will cover if he has the King and the opponents will get two trump tricks no matter who holds the king. Declarer should cash the ace and play towards the queen.

### The typical cases when one should always cover:

- RHO offers you the Queen and you have the king. If you are being finessed, take any honour the declarer offers you.
- When you have a doubleton honour, cover right away.
- Declarer is finessing for two honours.

♥AJ43

♥K7            ♥Q98

♥10652

One must cover the 10 with the king.

To play this combination, declarer should play to the jack and then cash the ace.

- Declarer knows you have the honour and is trying a fast one, which is another way to look at a losing finesse. A losing finesse is only a losing finesse, if you cover.
- To stop a finesse.

♦KJ53

♦AQ92      ♦84

♦1076

Declarer plays the ten. Cover with the ace.

## When Not to Cover

There are cases when one should not cover:

- Declarer has a two way finesse for the king and is fishing with the jack.

♣K1092                      As declarer, always play the jack first  
♣Q43                      ♣65                      to see if it covered.  
♣AJ87

- One can outlast the finesse.

♦A32  
♦K764                      ♦85  
♦QJ109

- One wants to prevent another entry to the RHO's hand.

♦A432  
♦K76                      ♦109  
♦QJ85

When one's RHO hand has touching honours. Cover the last one played.

- Partner has the honour to be promoted and it is falling singleton or doubleton.

♠A432  
♠K76                      ♠105  
♦QJ98