

A Simple Squeeze

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠ — ♥ — ♦ K Q 8 5 4 ♣ Q 10 | <table style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠ Q ♥ K 9 5 ♦ 10 7 ♣ 5 | ♠ — ♥ — ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ 9 8 7 2 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | | |

2♥ by West

Consider this end position. West declares, with the lead in dummy. West has all the tricks, but one. Whenever this is the case, consider a squeeze. While a club finesse could produce the extra trick, suppose you suspect North of harboring the ♣ Q. For a simple squeeze to function, one opponent must be busy in (guard) two suits.

Switch the North and South hands, and playing off all the major suit winners would squeeze South, because West will discard after seeing South's discards. West must read the position correctly; cashing the ace of clubs before the majors would solve that problem: if you don't see the ♣ Q by the last winner, discard the ♣ J. However, that won't squeeze North, who discards after South. Try it!

Dummy has a great card, the ♦ 10, which we can use as the diamond threat. Cash the ♦ A, then run the major suit winners, discarding ♦ J6 from hand. Now the squeeze operates automatically, if either opponent holds all of the ♦ KQ and the ♣ Q. Once the ♦ A is cashed, there is no guessing, when the squeeze is working. The end position will be

| | |
|-------|------|
| ♦ | ♦ 10 |
| ♣ A J | ♣ 5 |

Neither opponent (North here) can retain both ♣ Qx and a diamond honor. If the ♦ 10 is good, cash it. If not, lead to the ♣ A and fell the queen.

Reference: *Bridge Squeezes Complete*, Clyde Love (c) 1959. Updated version available; old one is fine.

The Silly Squeeze

Board 10
 East Deals
 Both Vul

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| ♠ 5 4 3 ♥ A 8 ♦ K J 8 5 4 ♣ Q 10 3 | <table style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠ Q 10 8 6 ♥ K 9 5 4 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ J 6 | ♠ A 7 2 ♥ 10 7 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ K 9 8 7 2 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|
| West <i>Pete</i> | North | East <i>Stew</i> | South |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 1 NT ¹ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♥ | All pass | | |
| | 1. 14-16 balanced. | | |
| 2♥ by West | | | |

South wins the opening lead of the ♠ 5 (West dropping the jack) and returns the ♠ 7, won by West with the ♠ K. West leads a sneaky ♥ J, trying to avoid an apparent spade ruff. When this holds, another round of hearts clears trumps. North leads the ♣ 3. Declarer stops to consider. With the minor suit aces, dummy is good, with two losers. After calling for the ♣ 6, West ducks South's ♣ K smoothly *to rectify the count* for what I call a *silly squeeze*. Your garden variety squeeze can only gain one trick. To have any chance for such a squeeze to work, you must have only one loser. A silly squeeze meets all the requirements for a real squeeze, but the threats are dubious. When defenders come under pressure, they sometimes make mistakes in discarding.

Run the silly squeeze just like the real squeeze. Cash the ♦ A (Vienna Coup), to establish the ♦ 9 as a threat. Then rattle off the major suit winners, discarding the ♦ 10 6, and reducing to:

| | |
|-------|-----|
| ♦ | ♦ 9 |
| ♣ A 5 | ♣ J |

If the ♦ 9 is good, cash it. Otherwise, lead to the ♣ A and see if the 5 is good. Guess what? Both opponents kept diamonds, and it *is* good!