



Adventures in Bridge

Leaders in Bridge Entertainment and Education

www.advinbridge.com

info@advinbridge.com ♠ 850 570 6459

Combine Your Chances – Expert Thinking

© AiB

Robert S. Todd

robert@advinbridge.com

Promotion

- Developing Winners by sacrificing an honor.
 - Kxx QJx
 - KQxx JTx
 - QJT98 xx
- Promote Top Cards or Medium Cards.
 - KT98 Q
- Advantages
 - Certainty of Trick(s)
 - Transportation often less of an issue
- Disadvantages
 - Must give up the lead
 - Often can't control which opponent gains the lead

Length

- Set up Small Cards – Turn non-honors into winners (often Medium to Low Probability)
- Sometimes must give up the lead sometimes not
 - AKQx xxx
 - AKxx xxx
 - Axxxx xx
- Ruffing a long suit to generate length tricks
 - AKxxx xx
 - Axxxx xx

Combine Length, Promotion, and Finesse in One Suit

- Promotion and Finesse - AQJ xxx
- Promotion and Length - KQJxx xx
- Finesse and Length - AQxxx xxxx
- Promotion, Length, and Finesse - KJTxx xx

Subscribe to This Week in Bridge – FREE weekly Bridge email lesson!

www.advinbridge.com



Other Alternatives to a Finesse

- Drop – Playing for the honor to fall. Can be because better % .
- Squeeze
 - Threat cards

Combine Your Chances

- Expert players are always looking for ways to not choose between option A and B (i.e. – play on Clubs or play on Diamonds). Best to find a line of play that will allow you to make your contract if A or B works (ideally, even C or D....)
- Combine probabilities in 2 different suits to get a greater total chance of success.
- The Finesse should be a fallback plan.
- *Some Examples*
 - Drop plus finesse is better than choosing between two finesses.
 - Playing for Split (test Length), fall back on finesse.
 - Try to ruff out a suit and fall back on finesse.
 - Try for Endplay, fall back on finesse.
 - Try for Squeeze and fall back on finesse.
 - “Pseudo-Squeeze” before finesse – give opponents a chance to make a mistake.
 - Combine even more of these chances!
- *Do not take a finesse that you know is going to fail!!*