

Los Altos May 15 Larry Cohen Declarer Play Overview

1

♠ AQJ1095
♥ 8
♦ 94
♣ AQJ5

♠ 6
♥ AK64
♦ K1062
♣ K1097

♠ 74
♥ J10975
♦ AJ53
♣ 63

♠ K832
♥ Q32
♦ Q87
♣ 842

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♥ J

The defense leads and continues hearts. Declarer trumps high (saving the ♠5). He draws 2 rounds of trump ending in dummy (saving a second dummy entry). He takes a club finesse and then crosses in trumps to repeat the finesse.

2

♠ J972
♥ Q103
♦ 107
♣ QJ105

♠ A10
♥ AK986
♦ K84
♣ A42

♠ 864
♥ 542
♦ AQJ3
♣ 863

♠ KQ53
♥ J7
♦ 9652
♣ K97

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♣ Q

Declarer has to lose 2 clubs and at least 1 heart (needing a 3-2 break). The spade loser can go on the diamonds. After winning the ♣A, declarer must play ace, king AND ANOTHER trump. If he doesn't play the third trump, North can ruff the 3rd diamond and declarer never gets the 4th diamond.

3

♠ AQ4
♥ 432
♦ QJ86
♣ KJ6

♠ J9762
♥ Q10
♦ A52
♣ 984

♠ K103
♥ J975
♦ 94
♣ 10753

♠ 85
♥ AK86
♦ K1073
♣ AQ2

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♠ 6

Declarer has 6 top tricks and can knockout the ♠A to get 3 more. He can't afford the ♠Q at trick one. If it loses (as it does), the spade continuation sets him. He plays LOW from dummy and can't be defeated.

4

♠ KJ9
♥ 864
♦ QJ109
♣ Q107

♠ 1062
♥ J9
♦ AK8542
♣ A4

♠ A743
♥ AK
♦ 73
♣ K8652

♠ Q85
♥ Q107532
♦ 6
♣ J93

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♥ 5

Declarer has 7 top tricks. He should test diamonds with the ace and king. If they split, he concedes a diamond and has an overtrick. When they don't split, he tries clubs and the 3-3 split sees him home. Ducking a diamond first is wrong, because it puts all the eggs in that one basket.

Larry Cohen Los Altos May 15 Takeout Doubles

1

♠ J10
 ♥ K9832
 ♦ 654
 ♣ AQ10

 ♠ 982
 ♥ 654
 ♦ J872
 ♣ 832

 ♠ AK7654
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 1093
 ♣ KJ9

 ♠ Q3
 ♥ AJ107
 ♦ AKQ
 ♣ 7654

Dealer: North
 Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♠	Dbl
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

 Opening Lead: ♠ A

East opens 1♠ and South doubles. North is worth 3♥, invitational, and South is barely worth 4♥. After 2 tops spades, East should passively exit in a red suit. Declarer draws trump, strips diamonds and plays a club to the 10 to endplay East.

2

♠ J1094
 ♥ A5
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 987432

 ♠ AK85
 ♥ 64
 ♦ A1098
 ♣ AKQ

 ♠ Q7632
 ♥ 73
 ♦ KJ32
 ♣ 65

 ♠
 ♥ KQJ10982
 ♦ Q765
 ♣ J10

Dealer: East
 N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	3 ♥
Dbl	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

 Opening Lead: ♥ K

South leads to the ♥A and wins the next heart and shifts to the ♣J. Declarer tests trumps and then clubs, learning that North has 10 black cards and 2 hearts. Accordingly, North has at most 1 diamond, so declarer lays down the ♦K and then finesses with 100♣ assurance of success.

3

♠ QJ109
 ♥ 65
 ♦ AQJ9
 ♣ AK3

 ♠ K6
 ♥ AQJ109
 ♦ K832
 ♣ J8

 ♠ 5432
 ♥ 432
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 76542

 ♠ A87
 ♥ K87
 ♦ 7654
 ♣ Q109

Dealer: South
 E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♥	Dbl	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

 Opening Lead: ♥ Q

South's 1NT response to the double shows approximately 6-10. North invites with 2NT and South bids the notrump game. West leads the ♥Q, won by South. The best chance for 9 tricks is to play diamonds -- but at once--all the entries to the South hand are needed to pick up 4 diamond tricks for the contract.

4

♠ 8
 ♥ KQJ1042
 ♦ Q32
 ♣ 1092

 ♠ KJ1032
 ♥ 93
 ♦ J4
 ♣ J873

 ♠ Q976
 ♥ 65
 ♦ AK
 ♣ AKQ65

 ♠ A54
 ♥ A87
 ♦ 1098765
 ♣ 4

Dealer: West
 Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♥	Dbl	3 ♥
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

 Opening Lead: ♥ K

North opens with a weak 2♥ and after East's takeout double, South LAWfully raises to 3♥. West has enough for a free 3♠, which East raises to game. The ♥K is led, and South can envision the winning defense. He overtakes with the ♥A and returns his club singleton. He comes in with the trump ace and puts his partner in with a heart to get his ruff for down 1.