

# Larry Cohen May 16 Defensive Strategy

**1**

♠ AJ9  
 ♥ J105  
 ♦ AKQ9  
 ♣ Q103  
 ♠ 1065432  
 ♥ AQ94  
 ♦ 107  
 ♣ 2  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ K82  
 ♦ J8632  
 ♣ A764  
 ♠ KQ8  
 ♥ 763  
 ♦ 54  
 ♣ KJ985

Dealer: North  
Neither Vulnerable

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

Opening Lead: ♦ 3

After the first trick goes to North's ♦A, East knows that North has ♦AKQ9. When he wins his ♣A (not on the first round), West throws a discouraging spade so East shifts to a low heart (showing "like"--BOSTON) and defeats the contract.

**2**

♠ 654  
 ♥ A52  
 ♦ 9765  
 ♣ Q105  
 ♠ AJ87  
 ♥ 43  
 ♦ KQJ10  
 ♣ AJ8  
 ♠ KQ10932  
 ♥ K7  
 ♦ 42  
 ♣ 632  
 ♠  
 ♥ QJ10986  
 ♦ A83  
 ♣ K974

Dealer: East  
N-S Vulnerable

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

Opening Lead: ♥ Q

East opens 2♠, raised to 4♠ (after South's 3♥ overcall). North wins the heart lead and should shift to a low club--his only chance (dummy's diamonds are threatening). South plays third-hand high (♠K) and the defense takes 4 tricks to set the contract.

**3**

♠ J3  
 ♥ 7432  
 ♦ AQ1076  
 ♣ 54  
 ♠ Q62  
 ♥ J9  
 ♦ 854  
 ♣ QJ1032  
 ♠ 54  
 ♥ 10865  
 ♦ KJ93  
 ♣ AK6  
 ♠ AK10987  
 ♥ AKQ  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ 987

Dealer: South  
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♣ Q

East has diamonds under control, so knows that declarer's only extra tricks might come from ruffing clubs in dummy. To prevent this, he wins the ♠K (cheaper of equals) and shifts to a trump. When in with the next club, he plays another trump to defeat the contract.

**4**

♠ 9763  
 ♥ Q9852  
 ♦ A7  
 ♣ K5  
 ♠ J108  
 ♥ AKJ  
 ♦ J643  
 ♣ J109  
 ♠ AK  
 ♥ 763  
 ♦ KQ1092  
 ♣ 832  
 ♠ Q542  
 ♥ 104  
 ♦ 85  
 ♣ AQ764

Dealer: West  
Both Vulnerable

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

Opening Lead: ♥ 5

West's 2NT shows 11-12 balanced, no 4-card major. When West wins trick one with the ♥J (probably, he should falsecard), North knows declarer has ♥AKJ. When diamonds are played, it is a good (the only) shot to switch to the ♠K. Partner is marked with good clubs (West is a passed hand)--and it is the only chance--and it works!

May 16 -- Declarer/Suits (Don't Paint into Corner) Larry Cohen

**1**

♠ KJ10976  
♥ 6532  
♦ A2  
♣ A

♠ A54                      ♠ 32  
♥ 9874                      ♥ KQJ  
♦ J10                        ♦ Q765  
♣ K1094                    ♣ J832

♠ Q8  
♥ A10  
♦ K9843  
♣ Q765

Dealer: North  
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♥ K

Declarer should duck the opening lead. Even with a trump shift (best) and another trump, declarer can draw trump and play ♦A, ♦K and throw a heart on the ♦9.

**2**

♠ Q7  
♥ 82  
♦ J10752  
♣ QJ65

♠ 984                      ♠ AK653  
♥ A43                      ♥ K765  
♦ K864                      ♦ A  
♣ 872                      ♣ A43

♠ J102  
♥ QJ109  
♦ Q93  
♣ K109

Dealer: East  
N-S Vulnerable

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

Opening Lead: ♥ Q

Declarer should duck the opening lead. Then he can win any return, cashing 2 top spades then unblocking the ♦A and trumping the 4th heart in dummy.

**3**

♠ K83  
♥ 96  
♦ A7652  
♣ 632

♠ J74                      ♠ Q1065  
♥ 72                        ♥ 543  
♦ Q1083                    ♦ K4  
♣ A875                    ♣ KJ109

♠ A92  
♥ AKQJ108  
♦ J9  
♣ Q4

Dealer: South  
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♦ 3

West's diamond lead is the only one to allow the contract to make. Declarer must duck in dummy and then use the major-suit entries to set up the long diamond.

**4**

♠ KQJ1097  
♥ 63  
♦ Q86  
♣ 73

♠ A5                      ♠ 642  
♥ KQJ1097                ♥ A8  
♦ AJ5                      ♦ 1092  
♣ K2                      ♣ J9654

♠ 83  
♥ 542  
♦ K743  
♣ AQ108

Dealer: West  
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Dbf	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♠ K

Declarer must use one heart entry to lead a LOW diamond to the jack. After it loses, he uses the other heart entry to run the ♦10. When that holds, he can lead to the ♣K.