

TEST YOUR
BRIDGE TECHNIQUE

THE SIMPLE SQUEEZE

David Bird • Tim Bourke

♠ QJ3
♥ K85
♦ A10
♣ K9742

♥J led

♠ AK4
♥ 3
♦ KQJ952
♣ A63

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THE SIMPLE SQUEEZE



David Bird
Tim Bourke

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INTRODUCTION

This book is designed to accompany *Squeezes made Simple* in the Bridge Technique series. It will give you the opportunity to practice playing hands that involve a specific technique — here, the simple squeeze. The term ‘simple’ squeeze merely means that only one opponent is squeezed on the play. It does not imply that the play will necessarily be easy to perform! While we start out gently, it is only fair to tell you that by the end of this book you will be working hard, and we shall have introduced some of the more complex varieties of ‘simple’ squeeze. We are sure, however, that you will find the journey worthwhile. Squeeze play is not only immensely useful and practical; it is also one of the most beautiful aspects of this incredible game we all enjoy so much.

A brief summary of squeeze technique is given before the problems start. A more comprehensive description of squeeze play is given in the Master Point Press books: *Squeezes Made Simple* (Bridge Technique series) and *Bridge Squeezes for Everyone*.

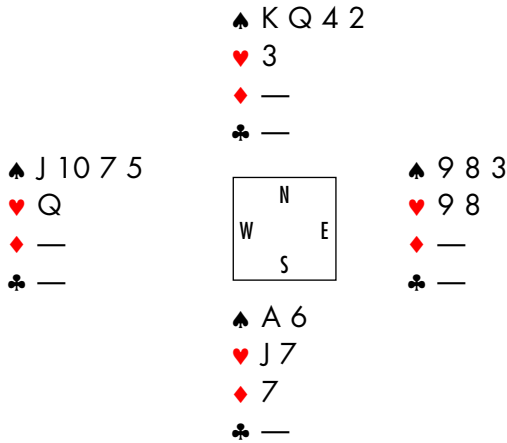
THE BASIC SIMPLE SQUEEZE

There is nothing in the least bit difficult about the basic variations of a simple squeeze. One defender has the sole guard of two suits. You play a winner in a different suit and he has to throw one of the guards away, giving you an extra trick. That's all there is to it! Let's see a typical simple squeeze straight away.

<p>♠ J 10 7 5 ♥ K Q 10 4 ♦ 4 ♣ 10 8 4 3</p>	<p>♠ K Q 4 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ K 9 8 6 3 ♣ K 6</p>	<p>♠ 9 8 3 ♥ 9 8 6 2 ♦ 5 ♣ Q J 9 7 2</p>									
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	N										
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	<p>♠ A 6 ♥ J 7 5 ♦ A Q J 10 7 2 ♣ A 5</p>										

You bid a grand slam in diamonds and West leads the ♥K. Can you see a way of making the contract? There are twelve tricks on top. No finesses are possible, nor is there any chance of scoring a thirteenth trick with a ruff. The only chance is find that West, who surely holds the ♥Q after the opening lead, also has the guard in spades. When you cash all your winners in the minor suits, he will then have to throw one of his guards away.

How does the play go? You win the opening lead with the ♥A in dummy. You then draw trumps, play the ace and king of clubs and run the remaining trumps. This will be the position with one trump still to be played:



When you lead the ♦7, West has no spare card to throw. All his cards are ‘busy’. The four spades are needed to prevent you from scoring a fourth spade trick. The ♥Q is needed to prevent you from scoring your ♥J. Like it or not, West will have to throw one of his guards away. He is ‘squeezed in spades and hearts’. If he throws a spade, you will discard the ♥3 from dummy and score four spade tricks. If instead he throws the ♥Q, you will make a trick with the ♥J and then claim the last three tricks with your spade honors. There is absolutely nothing that West could have done about it.

Was that a difficult play to make? No. Did we choose one of the easiest possible squeeze hands as an easy introduction to the subject? Well, yes, that’s true. But you will encounter many such squeeze hands — those that virtually play themselves.

Since the squeeze is a relatively technical play, it is necessary to learn a few pieces of terminology. We will not introduce any more terms than we have to, don’t worry. In the end position shown above, the ♦7 was the squeeze card. In other words, it was the winner that you played in order to perform the squeeze. The ♥J, in your hand, was a one-card threat, a card that was not yet good but was threatening to become so. Dummy’s ♠4 was also a threat. The spade ace, king and queen were all winners and the ♠4 was threat-

ening to become a winner (if West released his spade guard). The ♠4 was a threat accompanied by an entry. In other words, if the defender had released his guard against the ♠4 it would have been possible to reach it by crossing to a high spade in the same hand. Since ‘threat accompanied by an entry’ is rather a mouthful, the term two-card threat is usually used, even though in practice it may not be entirely accurate. Nearly all squeezes have these three components: a squeeze card, a one-card threat and a two-card threat.

So that you can get used to recognizing these three elements, look at another simple squeeze hand and try to pick them out.

♠ K J 9 2	♠ 7 5 4	♠ A 10 3									
♥ 9 4	♥ A 10 7 5	♥ Q J 6 2									
♦ 10 5	♦ 8 7 2	♦ J 9 6 3									
♣ 9 7 5 3 2	♣ K Q 10	♣ J 8									
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	N										
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	♠ Q 8 6										
	♥ K 8 3										
	♦ A K Q 4										
	♣ A 6 4										

Not seeing much future in his club holding, West leads the ♠2 against 3NT. East wins with the ace and returns the ♠10. Your queen loses to West’s king and he cashes two more tricks in the suit. Pleased to see that the defenders have only four spade tricks to take, you throw a diamond from dummy and a heart from your hand. East, meanwhile, discards the ♥2. West then switches to the ♣3, which you win with the king. How will you play from this point?

You have eight tricks on top and all will be well if diamonds split 3-3. You will succeed also if the same defender holds four diamonds and the sole guard against dummy’s ♥10. In practice you

TEST YOUR SQUEEZE PLAY!

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DAVID BIRD has written more than fifty previous books, including the award-winning *Bridge Technique* series (with Marc Smith). A regular contributor to many bridge magazines, he lives near Southampton, England.



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