Squeeze Play Basics

Squeeze card, 2 Threat cards, Rectified Count

reference:
David Bird “Bridge Squeezes for Everyone”
Squeeze Play Basics

What is a Squeeze Play?

* Technique to develop exactly ONE trick

* Cash winners in such a way that the defense MUST discard their guard cards

* Successful if only ONE defender holds both of TWO potential winners AND must discard one of them

* If the potential winners are split between defenders, there is no possible squeeze
Squeeze Play Basics

Positional Squeeze Scenario

* South leads ♠x, West must discard a winner

* West:
  - ♠-
  - ♥Q
  - ♦JT
  - ♣-

* North:
  - ♠-
  - ♥J
  - ♦Kx
  - ♣-

* East:
  - ♠-
  - ♥x
  - ♦-
  - ♣Tx

* South:
  - ♠x
  - ♥x
  - ♦x
  - ♣-

Squeeze Elements:
Squeeze card: ♠x
One card threat: ♥J
Two card threat: ♦Kx

South leads ♠x, West must discard a winner.
Squeeze Play Basics

Positional Squeeze Scenario

- **North:**
  - ♠-
  - ♥J
  - ♦Kx
  - ♣-

- **South:**
  - ♠x
  - ♥x
  - ♦x
  - ♣Tx

- **East:**
  - ♠-
  - ♥Q
  - ♦JT
  - ♣Tx

- **West:**
  - ♠-
  - ♥x
  - ♦-
  - ♣Tx

**East is NOT squeezed because he discards after the threat hand**
Squeeze Play Basics

Automatic Squeeze Scenario

North:
   ♠ -
   ♥ x
   ♦ Kx
   ♣ -

West:
   ♠ -
   ♥ x
   ♦ -
   ♣ Tx

East:
   ♠ -
   ♥ Q
   ♦ Jx
   ♣ -

South:
   ♠ x
   ♥ J
   ♦ x
   ♣ -

Either defender can be squeezed because a threat card is with the squeeze card
Squeeze Play Basics

Positional Squeeze Example

* Contract: 7♠ S
  Lead: ♥K

* North:
  ♠KTxx
  ♥Jx
  ♦AKxx
  ♣AJx

* East:
  ♠xx
  ♥xxxx
  ♦xx
  ♣Tx xxx

* South:
  ♠AQJxx
  ♥Ax
  ♦Qxx
  ♣KQx

* West:
  ♠xx
  ♥KQTx
  ♦JTxx
  ♣xx

Play 10 winners: ♥A, ♠AK, ♦AQ, ♣AKQ, ♠QJ
Squeeze Play Basics

Positional Squeeze Example

**Contract:** 7 ♠
**Lead:** ♥ K

**West:**
♠ -
♥ Q
♦ JT
♣ -

**North:**
♠ -
♥ J
♦ Kx
♣ -

**East:**
♠ -
♥ x
♦ -
♣ Tx

**South:**
♠ x
♥ x
♦ x
♣ -

*When South leads the ♠ x, West is squeezed and must discard one of his winners, making 7 ♠*
**Squeeze Play Basics**

**Rectifying the Count Example**

- **Rectify means lose your losers first!**
- **North:**
  - ♠ QJxxx
  - ♥ AQTx
  - ♦ Qxx
  - ♣ -

- **West:**
  - ♠ Txxx
  - ♥ xx
  - ♦ xxx
  - ♣ Txxx

- **South:**
  - ♠ AKx
  - ♥ KJx
  - ♦ A9x
  - ♣ Qxxx

- **East:**
  - ♠ x
  - ♥ xxx
  - ♦ KJTx
  - ♣ AKJxx

- (East opens 1 ♣)
- Contract: 6 ♠ S
- Lead: ♣ x
Squeeze Play Basics

Play Without Rectifying the Count

North:
- ♠
- ♥T
- ♦Qxx
- ♣-

West:
- ♠-
- ♥-
- ♦xx
- ♣Tx

East:
- ♠-
- ♥-
- ♦KJ
- ♣AK

South:
- ♠-
- ♥-
- ♦A9
- ♣Qx

Play: ♣ruff, ♠AKQJ, ♥KJAQ, no squeeze!
Squeeze Play Basics

Play With Rectifying the Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North:</th>
<th>♠ -</th>
<th>♥ T</th>
<th>♦ Qx</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West:</td>
<td>♠ -</td>
<td>♥ -</td>
<td>♦ xx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South:</td>
<td>♠ -</td>
<td>♥ -</td>
<td>♦ A9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East:</td>
<td>♠ -</td>
<td>♥ KJ</td>
<td>♣ A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instead Play: ♦ discard, ♠ AKQJx, ♥ KJAQ, now East is squeezed, and 6 ♠ is making
Squeeze Play Basics
A Real Life Example

* Contract: 3NT N
  Lead: ♦AKx

* North:
  ♠K9x
  ♥xx
  ♦JTxx
  ♣QJTx

* Dealer: East
  Auction:
  (P)-1 ♥-(P)-1NT-
  (2 ♦)-3 ♦-(P)-3NT-
  East:
  ♠xxx
  ♥Jx
  ♦AKxxx
  ♣Kxx

* West:
  ♠QJxx
  ♥Qxxx
  ♦xx
  ♣xxx

* Play: ♦JT, ♣QJx->A, ♥A, ♠AT->K,
Squeeze Play Basics

A Real Life Example

Contract: 3NT N
Lead: ♦ AKx

North:
♠ 9
♥ 4
♦ -
♣ T

West:
♠ Q
♥ Qx
♦ -
♣ -

South:
♠ -
♥ Kxx
♦ -
♣ -

East:
♠ x
♥ J
♦ x
♣ -

Dealer: East
Auction:
(P)-1 ♦ -(P)-1NT-
(2 ♦)-3 ♦ -(P)-3NT-

Play: ♣ T, West is squeezed, making 5NT