Establishing suits by ruffing

1. What distribution do you expect?
2. How many times will you need to ruff?
3. Unless you are able to draw trumps first, you will have to think about whether to ruff high or low.
4. Do you have enough entries?

	♦ 7 5	
	6:2	
	♦ A K 8 4 3 2	

	♦ 7 5	
♦ X X X		♦ X X
	♦ A K 8 4 3 2	

	♦ 7 5	
♦ X X X		♦ X X
	♦ A K 8 4 3 2 ♦ X X X ♦ X X	

You have 6:2 (8 cards). If the opponents' cards divide 3:2, you have one loser so will have to ruff once. This may have to be high.

	♦ 3 2	
	5:2	
	♦ A K 6 5 4	

	♦ 3 2	
♦ X X X		♦ X X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4	

	♦ 3 2	
♦ X X X		♦ X X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4 ♦ X X X ♦ X X X	

You have 5:2 (7 cards). How many times will you
have to ruff to establish the suit? If the opponents
cards divide 3:3 you have one loser, so will be able
to ruff once, and it can be low.

	♦ 3 2	
♦ X X X X		♦ X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4 ♦ X X X X ♦ X X	

	♦ 3 2	
♦ X X X X		♦ X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4 ♦ X X X X ♦ X X	

You have 5:2 (7 cards). How many times will you have to ruff to establish the suit? If the opponents cards divide 4:2? Twice. Both ruffs may need to be high.

	♦ 7	
	5:1	
	♦ A K 8 4 3	

	♦ 7	
♦ X X X X		♦ X X X
	♦ A K 8 4 3	

	♦ 7	
♦ X X X X		♦ X X X
	♦ A K 8 4 3 ♦ X X X X ♦ X X X	

	♦ 7	
♦ X X X X		♦ X X X
	♦ A K 8 4 3 ♦ X X X X ♦ X X X	

You have 5:1 (6 cards). If the opponents' cards divide 4:3, you have two losers so will have to ruff twice. As long as you cash only one honour, both ruffs can be low.

If you cash both ♦AK first, the 2nd ruff will have to be high (unless you have drawn trumps first).
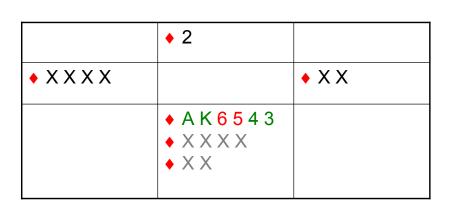
	♦ 2	
	6:1	
	♦ A K 6 5 4 3	

<table>
	♦ 2	
♦ X X X		♦ X X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4 3	
</table>

<table>
	♦ 2	
♦ X X X		♦ X X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4 3 ♦ X X X ♦ X X X	
</table>

	♦ 2	
♦ X X X		♦ X X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4 3 ♦ X X X ♦ X X X	

You have 6:1 (7 cards). How many times will you have to ruff to establish the suit? If the opponents cards divide 3:3 you have one loser, so will be able to ruff once, and it can be low.

	♦ 2	
♦ X X X X		♦ X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4 3 ♦ X X X X ♦ X X	

	♦ 2	
♦ X X X X		♦ X X
	♦ A K 6 5 4 3 ♦ X X X X ♦ X X	

You have 6:1 (7 cards). How many times will you have to ruff to establish the suit? If the opponents cards divide 4:2? Twice. If you cash ♦AK first, both ruffs may need to be high. If you cash just one honour, the first ruff can be low

♦2	♦2
5:1	6:1
♦ A K 6 5 4	♦ A K 6 5 4 3

With 6:1 or 5: Distributions, cash just ONE honour
and establish the suit by ruffing. Do not Cash AK
first unless you can afford to ruff high.