

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

	♦ 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 ♦ 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	

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.