

Bruce Blakely Chalk Talk  
Quicktricks Bridge Club  
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Teaching bridge strategy to motivated students  
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## FINESSES

Introduction: How many tricks will you take with this holding??

KQ2

345

There are many types of Finesses, including:

Simple Finesse  
Double Finesse  
Deep Finesse  
Running a High Card Finesse  
Two-Way Finesse  
Ruffing Finesse  
Choice: Standard or Ruffing Finesse

Simple Finesse:

K62                      50% chance for one trick.

543

AQ2                      50% chance for two tricks.

543

Double Finesse:                      25% chance for 3 tricks, 75% chance for 2 or more tricks,  
25% chance for only 1 trick.

AQ10

543

Deep Finesse:                      Winning 2 tricks if KJ10, KJ(x), K10(x), K(x) or J10(x) are on the left – 5  
times out of 8, 62.5%. Losing two tricks if RHO has KJ10, KJ(x) or K10(x).

AQ9

543

Running a High Card Finesse:

A32 or AQ3 50% chance to take 3 tricks.

QJ10 J102

Two-Way Finesse: 50% chance to take 3 tricks. You need to guess which opponent has the Queen. If possible, avoid guessing which opponent has that card. You would like your opponents to lead the suit for you.

AJ2

K103

Ruffing Finesse: 50% chance you will not lose a trick to the Ace. If RHO covers, ruff out the Ace, then return to dummy and play the winning Queen. If the King loses to LHO's Ace, you still get a discard (loser-on-loser play) on the King and may get a second discard on the Queen.

KQ

Void

Choice: Standard or Ruffing Finesse You can finesse either way. If LHO has the King, take the standard finesse. You get a discard on the Ace. If RHO has the King, play the Ace, then take the ruffing finesse against RHO. You don't lose a trick.

AQJ

2

NOTE: if you take the standard finesse and it loses, you lose a trick you didn't have to lose since you have a singleton in hand.

Whole hand example: You are in 6 Spades and your LHO leads the Queen of Diamonds.

	A1095		
	AJ2		
	K87		
	K106		
QJ4		7	
93		108765	
QJ106		9432	
????		???	Who has the Queen of Clubs??
	K8632		
	KQ4		
	A5		
	AJ5		

\*\*\* The key to taking winning finesses is to lead TOWARDS your high cards. \*\*\*

Bonus suggestion: **This may be the most important single piece of advice you will ever learn at a bridge lecture.** You should learn the most common distributions of 13 cards by rote. Knowing the hand patterns, without having to think about them, will make counting out each suit much easier. There are 39 patterns which are the only possible distributions for both the holdings of the four suits in your hand, and for the division of one suit among the four players' hands. The five most common hand patterns, 4432, 5332, 5431, 5422, and 4333, account for over 70% of all hands. In the hand above, your hand pattern is 5332; spades are 5431; hearts are 5332; diamonds are 4432; clubs are 4333. Good luck!