Winner Squeeze

by: Mr. Robert Frick

Source
The following represents the information as presented by Mr. Robert Frick.

In your typical squeeze, the opponent's discard in a suit makes your card in that suit good.

The winner squeeze is different. You always have the power to establish a trick in a suit, say hearts. You gain a trick when the opponent pitches a winner, allowing you the space to enjoy your heart winner.

Here is a simple example:

♠ xxx
♥ KQx
♦ xxx
♣ xxxx

♠ KQJ10987
♥ Ax
♦ J1098
♠

♠ xx
♥ xxxx
♦ xx
♣ QJ109x

♠ A
♥ J109x
♦ AKQx
♣ AKxx

Lefty (West) leads a spade against your contract of 1NT. You have only 6 tricks. If you led a heart right now, Lefty will cash 7 tricks. But if you lead your two top clubs, Lefty is forced to pitch a heart and then a spade. Once Lefty has pitched a spade, you can lead hearts. Lefty cashes 5 spades and a heart and you make 1NT.

A Typology of Squeezes

The two main types of squeezes are (1) regular squeezes, in which you gain a trick in a suit when the opponent pitches from a suit, and (2) endplays, where you gain a trick when an opponent is forced to lead away from a tenace.

The winner squeeze hence falls into a third category. The only other squeeze I know of in this category is the winkle/stepping stone squeeze.
I have not seen any book which discusses or analyzes the winner squeeze. Perhaps that is because it often naturally runs itself. Nonetheless, it seems to be a relatively common squeeze (especially if you include pseudo squeezes).

**Function of Each Suit**

All four suits are involved in the standard winner squeeze, and each suit plays a distinctive role.

- One suit has the squeeze card (clubs in the above example).
- In one suit, Lefty (or whoever the squeeze is against) has winners. That was spades in the above example.
- There is a suit which you can set up tricks by knocking out controls (hearts in the above example).
- There is a suit in which you have a threat and Lefty has to guard the threat, forcing Lefty to save a loser instead of a winner (diamonds in the above example).

**Other Features of the Winner Squeeze**

The winner squeeze always gains one trick.

The squeeze works even if Lefty is sitting behind both threats.

```
♣ xxx
♥ xxx
♦ xxx
♠ xxx
♠ KQJ10987
♥ Ax
♦ J1098
♠ A
♥ KQxx
♦ AKQx
♠ AKxx

♠ xx
♥ J109x
♦ xx
♠ QJ109x
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