

Intermediate Declarer Play I

Instructor: Ralph Letizia

Starts: August 6, 2021 (Friday)

Length: 8 weeks

Text: None – all materials furnished by instructor.

Prerequisite: Must have successfully completed Fundamentals or have explicit permission from instructor to enroll.

Class Format: In-person on Fridays following the game (approximately 3pm), and repeated Saturday on Zoom starting at 10:30.

Class Length: 1.5 to 2 hours

The Intermediate I class will last 8 weeks and is the first of two parts (I and II). All of the techniques covered in Fundamentals will be repeated in more depth plus a slew of new techniques, both primary and supportive, will be discussed. In addition, you will be taught how to handle hands that require multiple or alternative techniques, and especially for part score contracts.

In addition to traditional instruction, I also liberally utilize the following methodologies:

- 1) **Deep Analysis** – This is a process that deep dives into the thought patterns that accompany the formulation of a solution. Much of this occurs at trick one before a single card is played from the dummy. The deep part pertains to the level of detail and alternatives that are shared. This is the most formal style.
- 2) **Over-My-Shoulder** – This is a process where I share my thoughts as I walk you through the solution (there is both a G and M rated version, and I plan to keep the M version to myself! LoL). This is the most conversational style.
- 3) **Bridge Movie** – This is a question-and-answer type process that somewhat resembles Socrates Method light. It is **not** any form of video drama. This is the most interactive style.

Examples of each are available on demand.

I also emphasize “pattern recognition”, where you associate a hand pattern with a respective technique. It is not 100% foolproof but it greatly appeals to right brain thinkers, and stimulates problem solving. Once the pattern is discerned, only elementary logic is required to solve most hands. I also teach you how to not over rely on that process.

The classes are very informative, and each class comes with a recap and is available within 2-3 days following the class. At the current time, I do not record video or audio but may choose to do so in the near future. Each participant has direct access to me through email or text, and may ask as many questions as desired. All will be answered within 48 hours, and usually **much** sooner.

The class fee is \$20 per session, if all 8 sessions are paid up front or \$25 per class if paying on a class-by-class basis. I accept payment in most forms including cash, check, Paypal, Venmo, general gift cards such as MC or Visa, or even Amazon, and so forth. I do not accept cryptocurrency, e.g., Bitcoin (sorry). **No one will ever be turned down for lack of ability to pay; just talk to me privately and I promise I will work something out.** That having been said, I feel the cost is **more** than reasonable based on what you will learn and the information imparted for you to keep and refer to at will. I estimate that I spend approximately 4-5 hours or more per week preparing the lessons, another 2-3 creating and answering

the problems, At least 2-3 hours weekly responding to emails and texts, and at least 2 hours of “administrative” work. Add all of that up, for what you are getting, and you can see it is a real bargain.

Finally, there is only **one fee per immediate family**. That is, spouses, kids, live-ins, etc. may all be included for a single person fee. But **please**, just like I asked you to respect my intellectual property, do not abuse this privilege. Harsh as it may seem, no one gets a second chance here. If for example, you gather your weekly social bridge group together for a Zoom session, all must have paid their fee unless all are immediate family. Also, the class is intended for Unit 117 members but others may request participation. Just email me Name, Unit, District and Location by city/state.

Registration is now open for Intermediate I. While I know that some of you have already expressed interest or even committed, please send me an email (rvletiziajr@gmail.com) with Intermediate Registration in the subject line, and how you wish to pay. Payment is not due until the first class but all attendees must have paid or made other arrangements before participation is allowed. Let me know if you wish to pay by check and I will forward you my snail mail address. If you wish to pay by cash just bring it to the first class session and I will give you a receipt.

Here are some of the topics that will be covered in Intermediate I and II (not necessarily in this order):

1. Loser on Loser
2. Unblock Play
3. Safety Play
4. Cross Ruff
5. Dummy Reversal
6. Ruffing Finesse
7. Card Combinations
8. Counting
9. Avoidance Play
10. Hold-up Play
11. Trump Control
12. Blocking Play
13. Timing
14. Endplay
15. Trump Coup
16. Simple Squeeze

I will also be discussing many other techniques, most which are supportive but some stand on their own merits including:

- 1) Entry Management
- 2) Assumptions
- 3) Basic Logical Reasoning
- 4) Card Reading
- 5) Communication
- 6) Deception

And more.

More advanced forms of endplays and squeezes **may** be mentioned, but no depth before Advanced.