

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	
♦ XXXX		♦ XXX
	♦ AK843 ♦ XXXX ♦ XXX	

	♦ 7	
♦ XXXX		♦ XXX
	♦ AK843 ♦ XXXX ♦ XXX	

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).

	♦ 32	
♦ XXX		♦ XXX
	♦ AKQ54 ♦ XXX ♦ XXX	

	♦ 3 2	
♦ XXX		♦ XXX
	♦ AKQ54 ♦ XXX ♦ XXX	

You have 5:2 (7 cards). If the opponents cards divide 3:3 you have no losers and can make all 5 tricks, without ruffing.

	♦ 3 2	
♦ XXXX		♦ XX
	♦ AKQ54 ♦ XXXX ♦ XX	

What if the opponents cards divide 4:2 (more likely)?
Now you have one loser, so cash ♦AK and then ruff a diamond high.

	♦ 3 2	
	♦ A K 6 5 4	

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

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

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	
♦ XXXX		♦ XX
	♦ A K 6 5 4 ♦ XXXX ♦ XX	

You have 5:2 (7 cards). If the opponents cards divide 4:2 (more likely) you will have to ruff twice. Both ruffs may need to be high.