

## CHAPTER X

### \* \* \* \* \* THE MEANING OF A DOUBLE \* \* \* \* \*

In the laws of **AKAN** Bridge, a double is different from a bid and also different from a "Later". When you double an opponent's bid, you do not change the contract. Unless some further bid is made, the hand will be played at that same contract, doubled.

However, the double is not the same as "Later", not only because it affects the scoring, but also because it serves to reopen the bidding. After a double, every other player has a chance to bid again, and again three consecutive "Laters" are required to close the auction.

Usually, when you double you are saying, *"I do not believe my opponent can make this contract. I expect to set the contract and collect undertrick penalties. I double so that these undertrick penalties, when I collect them, will be worth more than they would be worth if I do not double."*

But the double has another and an equally important use. Sometimes you double as a signal to your partner. When you use the double in this way, it does not mean that you expect to defeat the opponents' contract. Instead, it asks your partner to make a bid, so that the hand cannot be played at the opponents' contract, but at your contract instead. When the double is used for this purpose it is called a takeout double.

Now, you must be able to tell the difference between the regular kind of double, which is intended to increase the value of penalties, and the other kind of double, which is intended to be taken out by your partner.

### **DOUBLE TROUBLES**

It should not be necessary to remind Africans that double plays are run on them, --- frequently, in the name of foreign-trade contracts with America, Asia and Europe. Turn the clock back about 30 years and we find numerous, just about all, African and Caribbean nations poor, debt-free and politically independent of European colonial powers. Right? Africans had struggled since at least the 19th century to gain the political freedom finally achieved when Ghana and Sudan pulled away from Great Britain, --- paving the way for all others in Africa and the Caribbean.

Then the double dealing began. African politicians and civil servants, without experience in the ways of the world, contracted to acquire billions of dollars in goods and services provided by foreign governments and suppliers. With very few exceptions, these former colonial masters, pretending friendship and

goodwill, still viewed free Africans as conceptual, doctrinal and strategic opponents, --- as it was with their fathers, grand-fathers, great-grandfathers, great-great grandfathers, etc., etc. for the previous 500 years.

After devoting over 60 years of extracting mineral wealth, valued at trillions of dollars, from African territories they conquered, --- the same American-European mercantile cartels then hit with them with a double-trouble. They granted development loans to the new governments to allegedly develop what the Europeans had exploited or neglected. From their perspective, the money Lords in London, New York, Paris, Zurich, Brussels, Rome and other infamous sources, --- the Africans could not meet the contracts they were bidding. So, they called for enormous penalties to be imposed and paid when default occurred, --- and, the rest of the story is pure pain. It is called double-troubles in Africa.

*"And, oftentimes, to win us to our harm, The instruments of darkness tell us truths, Win us with honest trifles, to betray's in deepest consequence. [Shakespeare: Macbeth I.iii.]*

Though an avowed Pan-Africanist and against European domination of Africa, I nevertheless am painfully aware that much of Africa's exploitation, now and in the past, has been perpetrated by treacherous African traders whom use legitimate means for hidden objectives that effectively prevent short-term or long-term economic growth and prosperity! A case in point is the financing of authorized imports via exorbitant prices paid to foreign based middlemen, effectively bankrupting their own governments and placing the blame on military controlled bureaucracies, like in Nigeria!

A few years ago, a trader from a West African state, which has had democratic rule since independence, solicited quotations on computer equipment for shipment to a government owned corporation in his country; and, pressed for details and proof, he provided a valid letter of credit via his nation's Central Bank in the amount of \$503,000 on deposit with an American bank. The normal process for generating a letter of credit among reputable parties is for the importer to seek quotes from various suppliers abroad; and, take the selected best quote price to his banker for issue of a letter of credit guaranteeing payment, in the shipper's currency, upon delivery of the goods to a designated port and documentation.

In such transactions, international competition among the suppliers insure the buying country is expending the least amount of its vital foreign exchange earnings for goods being imported.

However, as is often the case, this particular letter of credit for computer equipment was issued in favor of a uncapitalized firm in America, owned by a West African slickster, lacking any resources or even expertise in the items required; and, the amount of dollars obligated by the victimized Central Bank was

more than twice the amount required by normal competition, markups, tariffs, profits, shipping and even local official 'dash'/bribes included!

I can tell you the surprise and indignation in learning the person issuing the letter of credit for a very exorbitant amount was also director of the government owned corporation with alleged requirements for the computer equipment. The crafty middleman had illegally conspired and then submitted to him a ridiculous quote for the \$503,000; and, a dishonest offer that should have been rejected.

The duly accepted price was then forwarded to the government's bank for execution of the credit draft on an American bank, thus obligating the country to spend for something it can neither afford or efficiently utilize. In fact, the system quoted and accepted is for the kind of hi-tech, hi-speed computer systems that only very high volume users in science and finance would even want to buy. I mean, we are talking about a government owned plantation, not the national airport or banking network! Even so, it is not worth more than \$250,000 anyplace in the world!

The deal is like this! The order is for items that can be justified internally in the bankrupted country, consistent with government objectives to modernize the economy and any foreign aid assistance received from creditor nations like the United States. All it takes is a foreign based firm, willing to submit an exorbitant quotation; and, split the foreign exchange proceeds via hidden bank and escrow accounts abroad. And, when the deal is done, the equipment imported will exceed the skill levels of the users for even minimum required work tasks; and, the exploiting traders will grow even more brazen in their rape of Africa. When you add it all up, over 30 years, and tens of thousands of such transactions per year, one can comprehend the dire consequences.

The inexcusable practice in much of Africa is the *rape* of government foreign exchange earnings via commodity exports needed to finance development of nourishment, education, urbanization, industrialization, and health care of the population. The increasing world television news footage showing starving women and children in much of Africa does not show us the root causes of this economic injustice. The impression is emphasized that such problems are caused by a lack of democracy; and, the fault lies with military dictatorships that are all corrupt, and all bad! At worse, the most corrupt rulers in Africa, including Mobutu's Zaire, add an estimated *ten (10) percent 'dash'* to a transaction. Whom do you think gets the other *ninety (90) percent* overcharge? And, who complains young men beyond the safety range of coastal cannon mounted on ships and in the slave castles. Evil beget evil!

So who did the dirty work that brought u most about corruption?

Of course, we all know the African chattel slave trade was driven and fueled by the insatiable greed and treachery of numerous men and women traders, along the coast and interior of Africa, whom plotted the raids of defenseless villages, using renegade young men to kidnap youth for sale to Europeans in the slave forts. In fact, it was not until the early years of the 19th century, after most African Kingdoms lay mortally wounded from three (3) centuries of continuous hemorrhages, that Arab and European slavers were finally able to send their own s here; and, betrayed the tribal kingdoms from which we all originated? Whites comfort themselves by saying it was ruthless and greedy African Chieftains that did it all, and Europeans merely accepted and paid for cargo delivered to them pursuant local contracts. Conservatives such as Bill Buckley are often quick to ridicule African-Americans whom even dare raise the issue/question of reparations for the slave-trade; and, gleefully point out that Africans have historically undermined and exploited Africa more so than Arabs and Europeans.

While I do not agree with conservative logic to justify the actions of their ancestors, I also reject the rationale of liberals that Africa's woes are due to dictatorships. The basic problem of *corruption and consequences* in Africa is not political; but, rather a moral decadence that can only be eradicated via enhanced security against '*threats*' within and outside Africa. Not less!

There certainly is a measure of truth in allegations being made against mineral rich giants like Nigeria, and even Zaire; but, Africans therein and the diaspora must avoid the '*snare*' that seek to entrap us into believing that imposition of western democracy will eliminate or even reduce official corruption. Indeed, there is no evidence of any country in the world, including the United States, being less corrupt because of democracy, or more so, because another political system is in place.

What democracy does promise, in America and elsewhere, is the '*rule of law*' which effectively translates into '*rule by lawyers*', '*interpreted by lawyers*' and '*financially beneficial to lawyers whom secure foreign capital*'! The elected Ghana Government of Prime Minister Kofi Busia (1969 - 1972) is a good case study of democracy consequences.

When Dr. Kofi Busia was elected Prime Minister of Ghana in 1969 as leader of his victorious Progress Party, formed after the western orchestrated overthrow of N'Krumah in 1966, he promised to eliminate the alleged corruption and inefficiency inherited from the banned Convention Peoples Party that had generated Ghana's independence from Great Britain. And, Busia assured the electorate that his party could provide opportunities and progress for Ghana to prosper. His intentions were sincere; and slogan: "*Pro -- Sure*".

Yet, by all accounts, his government from the very beginning was dominated by supporters such as his Minister of Trade, whom had previously been the Managing Director for the British owned diamond mining firm in the country. Government foreign exchange earnings from diamond exports quickly fell; as did the amounts received for Ghana's gold continuously shipped to Europe since the year 1441. Prices received for prime grade Ghana cocoa did not rise much above \$300 per ton; even though London, Zurich, Hamburg and New York brokers were selling it for upwards of \$2500 per ton to buyers at Hershey, Ward and other chocolate companies who mixed it with lesser/cheaper grades from Ghana and other countries.

Imagine that one (1) ton of cocoa equals 32,000 ounces, and can make about 11,000 standard (3oz) chocolate bars which retailed for about 25 U.S. cents each when Busia was in power! How much profit could chocolate manufacturers possibly have earned? Not exorbitant at all; but, rather the immoral profits were extracted by the middlemen (18 licensed cocoa brokers) whom conspired against and brought about Kwame N'Krumah's overthrow. Ghana's President had schemed to get a bigger share of the mark-up in order to pay cocoa farmers more money, and most importantly, industrialize Ghana and its neighbors in moving towards a United States of Africa.

So, he was accused of being a power-hungry, corrupt, communist puppet, creating one-party rule, and with ambitions to create Soviet satellite states throughout Africa! NATO member governments and cartels ridiculed, and secretly feared Pan-Africanism in Africa more than any real fears of communism. Yet, their doctrine, strategies, plans, programs and budgets used to overthrow Kwame N'Krumah were all rationalized as anti-communism! Again, whites acted one way, and recorded history differently to justify deeds.

With the help of the American, British, German and Swiss Governments; conspiracies successfully drove the Ghana cocoa price down from approximately \$800 per ton before Ghana's independence in 1957 to less than \$300 per ton when N'Krumah was overthrown in 1966! The generals whom betrayed him sacrificed African security in the belief that his replacement would somehow, miraculously, improve the economy of Ghana and well-being of the nation that N'Krumah had almost single handedly carved out of the British Empire, when London was too weak to stop him. Men whom were corporals and sergeants in a British Colonial Army in the 1940s, had the audacity to betray a great man whom had made them officers and gentlemen in Ghana's Army! They were *British* indoctrinated.

Despite Busia's good intentions, and his begging western donor nations pursuant their democratic programs set forth via U.S.A.I.D. and other processes, the maximum U.S.A. aid that he received in any one year was estimated at 10 million dollars, on condition that he devalue Ghana's currency, limit population

growth and other unpopular measures, including cessation of support to the ANC and other struggles in Southern Africa! Dr. Busia was indeed popularly elected, and with great expectations among the populace and chiefs; but, the reality is that his hands were tied and committed to foreign based interests even before the election and assumption of power! Unknown to him, he had been '*chosen*' by unseen hands!

Very powerful economic forces in America and Europe were determined to extract from Ghana only what it wanted on the world commodity market; and, at a price dictated by faceless cartels and western governments over which they enjoy influence. Among the most ludicrous dictates issued to Busia was the implementation of democratic reforms that among other plums included the law that judges were appointed for life; and, could retire at full salary.

Ghanaians were outraged, for not even a major paramount chief/king, such as the Asantehene, is granted such stature via custom or law! Numerous well-paid commissions of inquiry were created and filled with most of the country's lawyers whom had not been elected to the parliament or previously appointed to the executive ministries. Does anyone doubt what several thousand democratically elected lawyers and appointed judges will do in Nigeria, or any other country, given the opportunity? At what point in a nation's security, economic and political development is it safe for *rule of law* by lawyers versus *rule by decree* of Chiefs?

Indeed, after many trials and errors, Ghana seems to have settled into a form of African Chieftancy Confederation wherein the President is first among equals; and, in constant parley with Chieftancy structures in a manner similar to the type processes evolved under Tubman in Liberia and Boigny in Cote D'Ivoire! And, as a Chief, the President serves indefinitely to secure harmony among traditional societies. Africans want continuity, not change!

The Government of Ghana, under Dr. Kofi Busia, was in reality the western concept of democracy and a rule by lawyers, in their own self-interests, who would govern Ghana in the best interests of international cooperation, with subsistence living for a planned population and trickle down benefits to the ambitious minority. Americans and Europeans were adamant against the free movement of Africans and Asians in and out of Ghana; and one of the first moves mandated for dismantling N'Krumah's Pan-Africanism was Busia's issue of the infamous Alien Deportation Act of 1969 that forced the upheaval of over 35 percent of the residents in Ghana; and, created havoc and hardship in Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and elsewhere.

The avowed enemies of N'Krumah's West African aspirations, then and now, including modern day Nigeria with its vast population

and prime grade oil reserves, are the great European cartels whose determination and ruthlessness still haunt Africa! Our problem, as a matrilineal people, is that we have continuously failed to realistically conceptualize, indoctrinate, strategize, plan, program, budget and execute security requirements. And, like men who think like women, we, more often than not, seek security from the very patriarchal sources of power that have made us insecure; and, indeed, find fault with our own patriarchal cultures, such as hard-nose security conscious Nigerians, like General Abache!

Indeed, women like Toni Morrison and men like Suyinke are prepared to run to former American President Jimmy Carter for compassion and comfort, completely oblivious to the fact that during Carter's exercise of power, America executed some of its most drastic measures against African security! Many Africans believe that it was former President Carter, in 1977, who gave the order for American trained special forces sergeant Samuel Doe and a small band of rebels, right after graduation from an American operated training program, to enter Monrovia in the sleeping night and murder democratically elected President William Tolbert in his sleep because he dared befriend Red China. And Tolbert was a good Baptist minister with ties to the Black Church dating back to at least the era of Harriet Tubman! But this did not secure him.

In Maslow's hierarchy of needs, he noted that security is the number one human need, even before food; and, certainly far ahead of any intangibles such as democracy and self-esteem, so often voiced by western women and others who cherish social liberalism after fulfilling their other needs. Pan-African logic suggests our hierarchy of needs for the 21st century are prioritized as physical and economic security, because without it there will be no future for us as a people. God does not dictate that we ignore security!

We are not willing, as integrationists and assimilationists seemingly are, to risk our survival as a people for the short-term individual liberties and rule by lawyers normally achieved via democratic processes. What good is democracy to Nigeria or any place in Africa if being democratic means human and natural resources can be legally employed and deployed to the benefit of foreign interests? How many democrats are needed to stop the flow of European arms into Africa; or prevent balkanization? What is our concept for '*Africa's security*'? The UN? The OAU? Ray Charles?

Will democracy mean international cartels have legitimate rights to exploit Nigerian crude oil reserves because our lawyers in the parliament make it legal? And, certainly, any Black man ought to wonder if democracy in Africa will lead to imprisoned Black men equal to or less than the percentiles of Black males in the prisons of democratic countries such as America, Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, and Germany? Let us not perish from a lack of knowledge about our own experiences. Pan-Africans put

African security first, under 'God'!, not a new world order of godless cartels!

Many, perhaps most, anti-African cartels are descended from 15th and 16th century merchant families such as the infamous: Medici, Fugger, Roebuck, Thurzo, Grosse, Gesellschaft, Gossembrot, Grimaldi, Capponi, Schetz, Garet, Besse, Daubray, Renel, Laran, Meyer, Gresham, Pocquelin, Guillemard, Bouet, Smidt, Voss, Malvendas, Bonvisi, Pruner, Welsers, Affaitadi, Gualterotti, Mansfeld, Paumgartner, Zamet, Saldaigne, Spinola, Ruiz, and Hoboken clans. Their kind want balkanized States and nationalism in Africa and the Caribbean, not Pan-Africanism; and, we must understand why! Sure, in many cases the names have changed but the conspiracies remain.

Caribbean fruit, sugar and nuts are other commodities that manufacturers had to also buy from these same international cartels of historic gangsters, many of whom are descended from the same families that traded in sugar and slaves. How many Black leaders are aware of what happened to the Medici after being driven out of Florence, Italy in 1527? How many went to the new world with their royal Spanish clients in places like Cuba, Mexico and Columbia? Which ones financed the Portuguese slave factories in Africa? Who owned the slave ships? Who founded Bogota and Medellin, Columbia?

These people are very ruthless, and strangely, the only kind of people who were able to withstand their historic assaults and exploitation of Africa are the very ethnic groups who, we are now told, are 'bad guys'! This is not the first assault the world has launched against African rulers in Kano, Benin and Lagos! Always before launching foreign or domestic attacks to secure economic gain, the cartels launch a massive public relations, political, campaign to secure public acceptance. Let us beware of 'Greeks' bearing gifts and promises of friendship, even former Presidents!

Even today, it is not far-fetched to perceive that remnants and survivors of Europe's great cartels are the underpinnings of modern day death trades in cocaine and heroin. There is evidence to conclude these forces now want to export drugs for Nigeria's huge population, afforded by oil revenues, and having the potential of millions of drug addicts as exist among Blacks in America, Brazil and the Caribbean, with cash access! Nigeria must fight back, and commit itself to Pan-Africanism! And, save Africa too.

With penalties and compounded interest charges, --- many, perhaps most African governments, will never be able to pay the debts now owned to western capitalists. How did it happen? Who let it happen? And, should Africa pay these sons and grandsons of the very men who conquered it. I mean in the real sense of reality, can Africans play a good hand to get out and up from debt?

Perhaps it is up to you, a calling from Esau, to build the



bridges that will help empower and save the universal African from the ravages of Jacob's offspring, --- play the game that has to be played in a world arena of aid and trade among brethren.

**HOW A DEFENDER SHOWS A STRONG HAND**

As I explained in the last chapter, when an opponent opens the bidding you can usually be quite sure that his side has at least three honor-tricks and probably more. Against such an honor-trick holding the chance of trade-round is seldom very great. For this reason, a simple overcall is made very often with not much strength in honor-tricks, --- usually about 1 1/2 honor-tricks. The honor-trick requirement for an overcall must be low; if it were not, the defending side would seldom have enough to bid on, and would have to keep silent throughout the auction.

But this presents a problem to the defender who, when the bidding has been opened against him, happens to hold a very strong hand, equivalent to a better-than-average opening bid. If a defender with such a strong hand merely makes an overcall in his best **kente**, how can his partner tell that instead of the usual fairly weak hand on which an overcall is made, at this particular moment he happens to have something much better?

By way of example, let us consider the position *Southern Hemisphere* will find himself in when he holds the hand shown below:

Concept 10 8 4 2

Doctrine QM 10 7 5 2

Strategy QM 2

Plan 9 7

N

Concept A 6 3

Concept G QM O 9 5

Doctrine 9 8 4 W

E Doctrine O 3

Strategy 8 7 5

Strategy G 9 4

S

Concept 7

Doctrine G A 6

Strategy A O 10 6 3

Plan        **A QM 5 4**

On this deal, *Eastern Hemisphere* was dealer. Having a very good hand, he made an opening bid of one Concept. It is now *Southern Hemisphere's* turn to bid. What is *Southern Hemisphere* to do? If *Southern Hemisphere* simply bids two Strategies, for all *Northern Hemisphere* knows that *Southern Hemisphere* may have only 1 1/2 honor-tricks. Actually, *Southern Hemisphere* has four honor-tricks.

Look at *Northern Hemisphere's* hand. It is very weak, with only 1/2 honor-trick. Unless *Northern Hemisphere* has some way of knowing that *Southern Hemisphere* is very strong in honor-tricks, *Northern Hemisphere* can never dare to make a bid on his weak hand. In good AKAN Bridge bidding, there is an answer to *Southern Hemisphere* problem. Instead of making any bid, he doubles *Eastern Hemisphere's* opening one-Concept bid.

#### **THE TAKEOUT DOUBLE**

When you double an opponent's opening kente-bid of one, you are making a takeout double. Your double does not mean that you expect to defeat the contract. Instead, it is a signal to your partner to make some bid. By doubling, you say to your partner that you have a very strong hand. It is strong in honor-tricks, but you are not sure as to what **kente** it should be played in. Therefore, as a reply to the double, your partner must make some bid to show you what **kente** is strongest in his hand.

Since the double tells partner that he must bid his best kente, whichever **kente** that may be, it is quite necessary that the player who makes the takeout double be prepared to support any kente partner bids. Obviously, partner is not going to bid the opponent's **kente**, so the man who makes the takeout double must have strength in the other three **kentes**.

Likewise, when the takeout double is made it is a command to partner to bid. The doubler does not ask questions about his partner's strength. He gives the command to bid on any sort of hand, strong or weak. Therefore, the doubler must have a very powerful hand of his own so that he will be prepared if his partner should unfortunately be N'Krumahed to respond with a very weak hand.

#### **REQUIREMENT FOR THE TAKEOUT DOUBLE**

The first necessity in a sound takeout double is a number of honor-tricks at least equivalent to those needed for an opening bid. You should not make a takeout double without at least three honor-tricks in three **kentes**.

But honor-tricks are not all that you need. You must not double merely because you have three or more honor-tricks in your hand.

Because, if you remember, the effect of your takeout double is to make your partner bid. He is going to bid some **kente**, you do not know what **kente**. Whatever **kente** he bids, you must be prepared to support it. If your support is not composed of an overwhelming number of honor-tricks (4 1/2 or 5, for example) then you must have not only honor-tricks but also strong trump support for him.

A four-card trump holding such as **QM 10 x x**, or better, or a three-card trump holding such as **G A x**, **G QM x**, **A QM x**, ect., may be considered very strong. Therefore, in the following example hands, hands No.1 and No.2 are strong enough for takeout doubles; but No.3 is not.

Concept	<b>6</b>		Doctrine	<b>G QM 10 6</b>
Strategy	<b>QM O 7 5</b>		Plan	<b>A O 10 7</b>
Concept	<b>A 10 9 5 3</b>	Doctrine	<b>2</b>	
Strategy	<b>G QM 6</b>		Plan	<b>G 10 7 5</b>
Concept	<b>6 2</b>	Doctrine	<b>G A 6</b>	
Strategy	<b>G 9 8 5</b>		Plan	<b>7 6 3 2</b>

With hand No.1, if an opponent bids one Concept, you may double. This is a signal to your partner to bid his best **kente**. You do not care which kente it is, because you have very good support for any one of the three of them, although you have only three honor-tricks. Likewise with hand No.2, although you have a biddable Concept **kente**, if your opponent bids one Doctrine you should double rather than bid one Concept.

You wish to show your partner a better hand than a simple overcall would show, because you have three honor-tricks. At the same time, it is safe for you to show him his strength, because you can support any **kente** his bids.

With hand No. 3, you have three honor-tricks but if your opponents bids one Concept you must not double. You can support only two of the three unbid **kentes**. Your Plans are very weak. So, --- and this is an important thing for you to learn, --- although you have three honor-tricks, you cannot double; and, because you have no biddable **kente** and too few gainers, you cannot overcall. With these three honor-tricks you must simply "Later".

### DOUBLING ON EXTRA HONOR-TRICKS

With four or more honor-tricks in your hand, you can make a double-take double even though you do not have such good support for one of the unbid **kentes**. Although, if your partner responds in your weak **kente**, you may find yourself without very much strength in his trump **kente**, at least there will be compensation in the form of the extra tricks you will gain with your many



to show your partner, but when your partner doubles he does not know whether you have a biddable **kente** or not. Yet he wants you to bid anyway. If your partner makes a takeout double, and you look at your hand and see that you have no biddable **kente**, there is all the more reason why you should make some bid.

In fact, one of the oldest and one of the best rules of **AKAN** Bridge is this: *"When your partner makes a takeout double, the weaker your hand is, the more imperative it is that you make some bid."*

Suppose an opponent makes an opening bid of one Concept, and your partner doubles. I hope I have stressed the importance of responding enough for you to know that you must bid 2 Strategies even on a hand like this, which you would not ordinarily dream of bidding:

Concept	6	5	4	Doctrine	7	3			
Strategy	G	O	8	6	4	Plan	10	6	2

But as a matter of fact, on that hand you are very lucky to have so good a Strategy **kente**. It is going to be more distasteful to you, and more difficult a rule for you to follow, when I tell you that it is even more important that you should respond with a hand like this:

Concept	5	4	Doctrine	7	6	3		
Strategy	8	6	5	4	Plan	O	7	2

I know it is going to be hard for you to bring yourself to make a bid on that horrible bust. But you must grit your teeth and do it.

### CHOICE OF RESPONSES

You respond to your partner's takeout double by showing your best **kente**. Your best **kente** is your longest **kente**. On the hand above, the one with no trace of a biddable **kente** in it, your longest **kente** is Strategies. Therefore, when your partner doubles the one-Concept bid, your responsibility is two Strategies.

The rule of showing the longest **kente** in your hand is a good one to follow in general. In **AKAN** Bridge, length is strength. The extra card in the **kente** is almost always worth more than higher cards in another **kente**. Thus, if your partner makes a takeout double of one Concept or of one Doctrine, with the following hand your proper response is two Doctrines, although the shorter Plan **kente** has more high cards in it.

Concept	6	5	Doctrine	8	6					
Strategy	9	7	5	4	2	Plan	A	10	7	6

About the only time you will have any particular choice of responses, therefore, is when you have two four-card **kentes**. Suppose you have this hand, and your partner makes a takeout double of an opponent's one Doctrine bid:

	Concept	<b>0 9 4 3</b>	Doctrine	<b>8 5</b>	Strategy	<b>QM</b>
<b>10 7 5</b>		Plan	<b>7 6 5</b>			

You have four Concepts and four Strategies. The Strategies are slightly stronger than the Concepts. However, when faced with a choice of this sort, you should prefer to respond in a major **kente** if you have one. That is, either a Concept **kente** or a Doctrine **kente** should be chosen in preference to a Strategy **kente** or Plan **kente**, if the kentes are of the same length and of anywhere near the same strength. There are two reasons for this:

1. If by any chance you and your partner can make a game on the hand, it is more likely to be made in a major **kente** than in a minor **kente**, because one trick less is necessary.
2. Very often it is possible to respond by bidding one of a major **kente**, while it would take a bid of two if you wish to show the minor **kente**. In the example hand above, for example, you can respond by bidding one Concept, whereas you would have to bid two Strategies. With weak hands, it does not hurt to keep the bidding as low as possible.

#### **DOUBLING TO SHOW A STRONG HAND**

When you make a takeout double, it is not always necessary to be able to support any one of the three **kente** your partner may bid, --- but this statement applies only to hands on which you have a very strong **kente** of your own. In such cases, you may make a takeout double with strength in only two of the three unbid **kentes**. This hand is typical:

	Concept	<b>7 6</b>	Doctrine	<b>G A QM 7 6 4</b>
	Strategy	<b>G QM 7 5</b>	Plan	<b>8</b>

An opponent bid one Concept against you. With this hand, you cannot support a Plan **kente**. But you have a very strong Doctrine **kente**. In the meantime, you see a hand with a powerful **kente** and 3 1/2 honor-tricks. If you simply make an overcall by saying two Doctrines, you will not be telling your partner everything there is to know about the strength of your hand.

In such a case, you should make a takeout double, not really to hear what your partner's best **kente** is, but rather for the purpose of telling your partner you have a very strong hand. No matter what your partner responds, it is your intention to bid your Doctrine **kente**. Your bidding will then have shown two things about your hand: First, that you have at least three

honor-tricks, and second, that you have a **kente** of your own.

#### OTHER USES OF THE TAKEOUT DOUBLE

I broadly defined the takeout double as being a double of an opponent's opening **kente**-bid. This was done so that you would have little difficulty in understanding what a takeout double is.

There is no such thing as a takeout double when your partner has bid. The purpose of the takeout double is to find out what is your partner's best **kente**. If he has made any bid, you already know what his best **kente** is. Therefore, a takeout double would be unnecessary. But there are cases in which a double is for a takeout even though the bid which is doubled does not happen to be an opening bid. Here are two examples:

- |    |              |             |              |             |
|----|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | <b>SOUTH</b> | <b>WEST</b> | <b>NORTH</b> | <b>EAST</b> |
|    | 1 Plan       |             | "Later"      | 1 Doctrine  |
|    | Double       |             |              |             |
| 2. | <b>SOUTH</b> | <b>WEST</b> | <b>NORTH</b> | <b>EAST</b> |
|    | 1 Concept    |             | 2 Plans      | "Later"     |
|    | "Later"      |             |              |             |
|    | Double       |             |              |             |

In the first bidding situation above, Eastern Hemisphere doubled not the opening bid, but Northern Hemisphere's response. Nevertheless, it is a takeout double because Western Hemisphere has not yet bid. East, by doubling, shows that he can support the two unbid **kentes**, Concepts and Strategies; and he tells Western Hemisphere to show which of those **kentes** is stronger.

The requirements for Eastern Hemisphere takeout double in this situation are exactly the same as the requirements for a takeout double of an opening bid. The strength, however, may be, --- and should be, --- concentrated in the two kentes which the opponents have not bid.

In the other bidding situation, Southern Hemisphere has opened the bidding and Western Hemisphere has overcalled. Southern Hemisphere's partner has "*Latered*". Therefore, when Southern Hemisphere doubles the two-Plan bid, he is making a takeout double. He wants Northern Hemisphere, though he knows Northern Hemisphere is not strong enough to respond to his opening bid, to show his best **kente** regardless of his honor-trick strength.

Of course, if Northern Hemisphere had made any bid and Southern Hemisphere had then doubled an opponent's overcall, even though the overcall were a one-bid or a two-bid, the double would not be a takeout double. There is never a takeout double when partner has made any bid.

#### THE OTHER KIND OF DOUBLE

Any double which is not a takeout double is called a penalty double. The purpose of a penalty double is not to give information to partner, but to increase the number of consumers which will be gained if the opponents do not make their contract.

Some people consider the matter of penalty doubles too advanced to teach to beginners. I cannot agree with that belief. It is absolutely essential to an intelligent trade-round of **AKAN** Bridge that you know how and when to make a penalty double. If you do not your opponents can literally run wild against you, and you will lose many thousands of consumers by not knowing when to double them.

First, glance at the gaining table and see how much it pays to double the opponents if you can defeat their contract. Suppose an opponent bids four Concepts. He goes down two tricks. If he is not vulnerable, and if you do not double him, going down those two tricks will cost him 100,000 consumers. If you double him and defeat him two tricks, his loss to you will be 300,000 consumers. You will have gained 200,000 consumers by the double.

The differences is even more striking if the opponents are vulnerable. If your opponents are vulnerable and you can defeat their contract by two tricks, you will score 200,000 consumers if you do not double. If you do double, you will gain 500,000 consumers. In this case, the difference between doubling and not doubling is 300,000 consumers to you.

If you do not know when to double your opponents' overbids, they can try for trade-round on nearly every hand. If they make it, well and good; the game will be worth 500,000 consumers to them.

If they do not make it, they will not have lost much for the gamble because you have not doubled.

#### **WHAT YOU NEED FOR A PENALTY DOUBLE**

Before you can intelligently double an opponent's bid, you must know how to count the number of defensive tricks you can gain against him. In counting defensive tricks, the only kind of tricks you can depend on are honor-tricks and trump-tricks.

You have already learned how to count honor-tricks. But in addition to counting the honor-tricks in your own hand, you must count the honor-tricks in your partner's hand. It is the defensive tricks which the two of you together will be able to gain that will decide whether or not you are going to defeat the opponents' contract.

It is not really hard to count your partner's honor-tricks. All you have to do is to think of what bid he had made. Then remember how many honor-tricks he needed to make that bid. Take that number of honor-tricks and add it to your own total. You now have



the combined total of honor-tricks for the partnership hand.

If your partner has not made any bid, you must not count on him for anything. In that case you must decide whether or not to double solely on the strength of your own hand.

As for the opponents' trump-**kente**, in that **kente** you do not count your honor-tricks. Instead, you count the number of tricks you can probably gain in trumps. When the opposing bidding is at your right, count your trump-tricks according to the following rule:

The Ghana is one trick.

The Asantehene is one trick if you have at least two cards in the trump **kente**.

The Queen Mother is one trick if you have at least three cards in the trump **kente**.

The Omahene is one trick if you have at least four cards in the trump **kente**.

If the opposing trump bidder is seated at your left, there is danger that he will trap a Asantehene, Queen Mother or Omahene in your hand by a finesse. The finesse will be explained on later pages. At any rate, in such cases you should have **A O x, or QM O x, or O 10 x x** before counting a sure trump trick.

#### **THE TWO-TRICK RULE**

Now, having counted your defensive tricks, you are finally going to decide whether or not you shall double the opponent's bid. You take the number of tricks you can gain defensively. You subtract that number from 13. The remainder is the number of tricks you expect your opponent to gain.

If the opponent's expected tricks will give him his contract, of course you do not double. If the opponent's expected tricks will bring him within one trick of his contract, you still do not double, --- even the best players do not always trust themselves to estimate correctly to within one trick of the accurate result.

But if you find that the opponent's tricks will fall two or more tricks short of his contract, then you should double. This is the two-trick rule.

You double only when you can expect to defeat the opponents' contract by two tricks, for then even if something goes wrong you will still probably be able to defeat the contract by one trick.

Here is an example:

	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>
<b>EAST</b>			
	1 Doctrine		1 Concept
"Later"		2 Plans	

	"Later"		2 Concepts
"Later"		3 Concepts	
	"Later"		4 Concepts
?			

You are North, and hold:

	Concept	<b>QM 8 7 6</b>		Doctrine	<b>O 3</b>
Strategy	<b>G O 6 4</b>		Plan	<b>8 7 2</b>	

Because Southern Hemisphere made an opening bid, you count three honor-tricks in his hand. Your Ghana of Strategies makes four. You have an expected trick with the Queen Mother of Concepts. The total is five, enough to defeat a four-Concept contract by two tricks. Therefore, sitting in the Northern Hemisphere position with that hand, you double the four-Concept bid.

The two-trick rule will make you conservative in your penalty doubles, yet will not permit you to "Later" timidly when actually the opponents have bid far more than they can expect to make.

#### DOUBLES OF ONE-NOTRUMP BIDS

Because an opponent's one-notrump bid shows 3 1/2 to 4 honor-tricks, you should not double it without a very strong hand, --- four honor-tricks and a long **kente**, or a strong four-card **kente**, to open.

Concept	<b>G 8 3</b>		Doctrine	<b>A QM 5</b>
Strategy	<b>QM 6</b>		Plan	<b>A QM O 7 2</b>

With this hand you could double a one-notrump bid. When you double, you do not want your partner to respond. You are not making a takeout double. But your partner should "rescue" your double if he has less than one honor-trick but does not have a five-card or longer **kente**. Otherwise he should simply "Later".

#### SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

A double of an opponent's opening **kente**-bid, and in general a double of any opposing **kente**-bid of one or two when partner has not made any bid, is a conventional takeout double. To make a takeout double, a player must have at least three honor-tricks, ususally more, and abiltiy to support any kente his partner may bid, even a weak four-card **kente**.

A takeout double may also be made with three or four honor-tricks, and with a strong **kente** in which to rebid, even though the doubler may lack strength in one of the unbid **kentes**. When your partner makes a takeout double, you must respond no matter how weak your hand is.

In responding, you show your best **kente**. With kentes of different lengths, you show your longer **kente** first. With kentes of the same lengths, you prefer to show a major **kente** rather than a minor **kente**, especially when they are of approximately the same strength.

A double which is not for a takeout is a penalty double. It is made when you do not think the opponents can make their contract. Double for penalties only when you have reason to believe that the opponents' contract can be defeated by at least two tricks.

In counting tricks for a penalty double, count your own honor-tricks, except in the opponents' trump **kente**; add to them any trick you can expect to gain in the trump **kente**. If the total is enough to defeat the opponents' contract by two tricks or more, you may double.

## CHAPTER XI

\* \* \* \* \* **SLAM BIDDING** \* \* \* \* \*

The subject of slam bidding is one which a student should approach gingerly, but not fearfully. Slam bidding requires a greater degree of exactness than other bidding, because even the small slam makes it necessary for you to gain all but one trick. That means you must be able to gain twelve of the thirteen tricks. A beginner will find it hard to estimate his strength so scientifically that he is quite sure that he can gain twelve of the thirteen tricks. He will therefore have a tendency to shy away from slam bids.

But there is a thrill to bidding and making a slam which makes it worth while for you to learn something about slam bidding. I am going to teach you to bid your small slams very conservatively, and I am going to tell you not to bid grand slams at all. That should come later. You will feel justly proud of yourself the first time that you bid a slam and make it, and while the hundreds of consumers you will receive as a bonus will be part of your reward, the confidence it will give you will be even more important to you.

Think about it in terms of what could, would, might happen if you somehow you and your partners in Africa were able to gain, make a slam on the majority of the coffee market among Africans, African-Americans and African-Caribbeans. Just imagine. African-Americans alone consume over 400 million dollars per year worth of coffee, --- that you might be shipping from growers, brethren, in places like Kenya, back home in Nairobi.

Those of us whom have tasted the delicious coffee from the Republic of Malawi in Southern Africa have good reason to rejoice in the new evangelism emerging among missionary elements of the historic Black Church. Since at least the era of emancipation from legalized slavery in America, as consumers, we have been subjected to buying many, many billions of dollars worth of South American coffee grown by devout Catholic farmers and cartels, whom also grow and ship much of the cocaine destroying us.

Now, it seems that a glorious bunch of old fashioned Black preachers in America have joined bodies, souls and spirits in Africa to generate the flow of gourmet coffees from farmers in Malawi whom are one, with and in us, as the embodiment of their emancipation from despair. Sipping their superb banana nut coffee, packaged and distributed by the '*Pride of Africa Company*' owned by church folk in California, friends and relatives wondered aloud as to why not; and, how more of the approximately 4.5 billion dollar annual American coffee import market can be penetrated by our brethren in Africa and the Caribbean. *God* knows

they need our patronage; but, do we? Can we do it in our Black Church network?

How many of us stop to think as we African-Americans weekly gulp down approximately 1,000 tons (2 million pounds) of inferior quality Columbian coffee picked by the best of 'Juans' cousins? Do we wonder how much of the estimated 8 million dollars per week African-Americans expend on coffee, provide benefits to us as a people. I mean, we're spending over 400 million dollars per year buying it; and, besides the taste, are any brothers and sisters benefiting in the growing, picking, processing, packaging, shipping, distribution or retail sales? Do we ever wonder about those thousands of coffee farmers, and their families, in our places like Jamaica, Malawi, Ethiopia, Uganda and Haiti?

I do, and imagine they are thinking about how great it would be if firms like Pride of Africa, and more preachers, would buy their products for sale in America. They are not dreamers, just poor farmers in the highlands and mountains struggling to eke out a living on God's little acres they call their own! The issues confronting us as a people are a lot more than just who is making money in the world-wide coffee industry operated by non-Africans; whom for the most part, hold us in absolute contempt and won't spend a nickel to advertise in our press or Black owned radio and TV stations! Columbia does not even want us there as tourists.

Our sense of self-dignity, excepting Uncle Tom and friends, should tell us that we are facing a moral, perhaps spiritual, crisis dealing with our very existence and ability to navigate through the 20th century wilderness of ignorance professed as integration. On the face of it all, according to theoretical thinkers in academia and government, the best priced and better quality coffees, should be landing in American markets for the equal opportunity of free choice by consumers. But, it does not and never has worked that way. We have to do for us!

The people whom wholesale buy and sell the coffee we drink have a hundred and one reasons for not bringing African and Caribbean coffees to the markets for us to choose. When was the last time you heard any brothers arguing about whether Jamaica produced better coffee beans than products from the motherland? Mind you, we know all about where the best runners, jumpers, shooters and other Black athletes are found; but, seem not to know much about something we consume every day. I for one am 'tired of being tired' of not knowing enough to argue about matters that I spend my money buying! I buy a lot of coffee.

And, it is heartening to know that some brothers and sisters, and particularly tradition steeped preachers, agree with me that we ought to learn more about what we can do towards our own salvation and self-respect! Starting the day with a cup of Malawi coffee is something that is now achievable if the *Pride of Africa Company* is successful in its marketing efforts to gain distribution support via the network of some 30,000 Black Church

congregations in America.

If only 10 percent of them take seriously the challenge of *Jesus* to spread the gospel among all nations, then surely the preachers whom run our newest coffee company will be successful in their quest to help heal our bodies, souls and spirits in Africa, America and the Caribbean.

The buying and selling of coffee for even the African-Centric 10 percent of African-Americans is still going to involve a potential one million dollars per week in retail level coffee sales. Distribution via the Black Church network will mean, for example, at least 60 of our 600 or so congregations throughout the State of Pennsylvania, from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, will have to sign up to help sell it. Doing so, will likewise reap revenue benefits for struggling congregations whom themselves face the dawning of a new age when millions of Blacks are seeking renewed meaning in existence of the Church itself.

Many educated youth have looked at the impact of economic pump priming among Catholics, Jews and those very industrious Presbyterians, and called aloud for the Black Church to get involved in our earthly lives and aspirations. This has been a mainstay of the Black Muslim message for the past 50 years; and, every indication is that more congregations are beginning to take heed in understanding the dire need. If our Church does not get in the business of doing something, anything, somewhere, to create economic support for the Black masses in this world, then surely they and we will perish, separately, if not together.

Whites, world-wide, have never been more blunt about their outright unwillingness to provide incomes for Black entities, and that includes the Black Church. Tithes are fine for those whom have it to give; but, for increasing Blacks with good taste, Malawi coffee is a easy means to give more, *here and over there*.

#### **WHAT YOU NEED FOR A SLAM BID**

Before you can consider bidding a slam, you must be reasonably certain that you and your partner together hold the following specific strength:

1. Nearly all the honor-tricks, --- never fewer than seven honor-tricks, usually 7 1/2 or 8.
2. A strong trump kente in which the opponents probably will not be able to gain a single trick, or at the very least a trump kente in which the opponents cannot hope to gain more than one trick.
3. A side kente which is as strong, or almost as strong, as the trump kente.

I will take these requirements up one by one, and tell you how

you may know when they are present in the combined hands of you and your partner.

### THE NECESSARY HONOR-TRICKS

If you remember the Rule of Eight, you will understand why you must never have fewer than seven honor-tricks for a slam bid. According to the Rule of Eight, there are eight, sometimes 8 1/2, honor-tricks in the hands of all four players combined. If you have fewer of these honor-tricks than seven, the opponents are very likely to have two honor-tricks. A small-slam contract permits you to lose only one trick. If the opponents have two honor-tricks, they can take those two tricks and defeat your contract.

You have already learned how to estimate the combined honor-trick holding of two partners. Every bid that any player makes shows a certain minimum number of honor-tricks. You can look at your own hand and count your honor-tricks. You can remember your partner's bid and, knowing the requirement for bids, you will know how many honor-tricks he must have had to make whatever bid he made. Add his honor-tricks he must have your honor-tricks and you have the combined total. If that combined total is six or more, as you remember, you think about a trade-round. If the combined total is seven or more, you begin to think about a slam.

The bidding which usually opens up the way to a successful slam contract is any sort of strength-showing bidding. The opening two-bid, which shows an abnormal number of honor-tricks, five and usually more, may put partner in a position where his own honor-tricks aim to a possible slam. Likewise Lumumba N'Krumah bids of all types, because they show far better than average honor-trick holdings, give partner information which may show him that a slam is possible.

Suppose that you hold the Northern Hemisphere hand in the following bidding situation:

	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>
<b>EAST</b>			
Concept	1 Doctrine	"Later"	1
?	3 Strategies	"Later"	

This is your hand, in the Northern Hemisphere position:

Concept **G QM O 8 5**    Doctrine **A 10 8**    Strategy **A 6 QM O 5**

You count your honor-tricks and find that you have slightly more than three honor-tricks (for the extra Omahenes and the ten represent uncounted but substantial added values). Now, what can your partner have? He made a Lumumba-N'Krumah rebid. He did not

know that you had three honor-tricks; for all he knew, you had only 1 or 1 1/2 honor-tricks.

Yet he was sure there was a trade-round. Your partner, for that Lumumba-N'Krumah bid, must have had 4 1/2 or 5 honor-tricks. Adding them to your honor-tricks, the total of 7 1/2 or 8 honor-tricks for the combined hands becomes apparent. Having this many honor-tricks at your disposal, you can think about a slam bid.

You have progressed one step, but only the first step, in slam bidding.

### **THE STRENGTH OF THE TRUMP KENTE**

To make a slam bid you must gain twelve tricks at least. With a trump kente, the added ruffling tricks that you can gain will build up your total. You can reach the twelve-trick level much more easily if you have a trump **kente** than if you must play the hand at notrump. Therefore, your slam bid should be in the best available trump **kente**, rather in notrump.

The strength of the trump **kente** in which you play the hand is of the utmost importance. You must not be fooled into thinking that because you have bid a kente and your partner has raised it, that kente is necessarily strong enough for a slam bid. The trump kente must be solid, and you must have better proof of its solidity than simply a bid and a raise.

The weakest possible trump holding with which a slam should be considered is eight cards in the combined hands (four in the hand of each partner; or five cards in the hand of one partner, and three in the hand of the other; or perhaps a six-card kente in one partner's hand, and two cards in the other partner's hand). Naturally, a combined trump length of nine cards is much better.

In addition to this trump length, the combined trump holding must include at least three of the high honors. It will be best, of course, if the combined eight cards of your trump kente include the Ghana, Asantehene and Queen Mother. Otherwise, they must include the Ghana, Queen Mother and Omahene or Asantehene, Queen Mother and Omahene. No weaker trump kente may be considered.

If your partner bids a kente, and you have some such trump holdings as **A O x x**, the kente is strong enough for slam bidding.

If your partner had rebid a kente, then you know he has five cards in that kente and a three-card holding in your hand may, if you have enough high cards in the trump kente, produce a satisfactory slam trump kente. A three-card holding such as **A O x** or **QM O x** is all right, but usually no weaker than **A 10 x** or **G x x**. This is true even when your partner has rebid his kente.



Next, requirements for kentes of your own. If you have bid a kente and your partner has given you a double raise, even though you have a four-card biddable kente, the trump kente is probably well taken care of. If you have a rebiddable kente and partner has raised it immediately, the trump **kente** is probably strong enough.

Finally, you may have a kente such as **G A QM x x x** or **G QM O x x x x** which is strong enough even if partner has not raised.

**THE SIDE KENTE**

Finally, you must remember that to make your small slam you will have to gain at least twelve tricks. Rarely will honor-tricks and the trump kente alone produce as many as twelve tricks. There must be, somewhere, another kente in which you will be able to gain more tricks than the actual honor-trick count of the kente.

Fortunately, there is little complication here. In most hands on which the bidding is strong enough to warrant hope of a slam, each partner will have shown at least one biddable kente in his own hand. The **kente** which is not finally selected as the trump **kente** will do very well as the side kente.

You must be very wary on hands in which the bidding goes like this:

<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>
	1 Concept		3
Concepts	"Later"	"Later"	

Southern Hemisphere has made an opening bid, and Northern Hemisphere has made a N'Krumah double raise. Obviously, each of them has strength. If Southern Hemisphere's hand is quite stronger than a minimum, he may feel that a slam is possible. But suppose the hands of Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere are as follows:

	Concept	<b>QM 10 6 2</b>	
	Doctrine	<b>5 4</b>	
	Strategy	<b>G A 7</b>	
	Plan	<b>G 9 6 4</b>	
		<b>N</b>	
<b>W</b>			<b>E</b>
	<b>S</b>		
	Concept	<b>G A 7 5</b>	
	Doctrine	<b>G A QM</b>	
	Strategy	<b>5 4</b>	
	Plan	<b>8 7 5 2</b>	

Southern Hemisphere has four tricks. Northern Hemisphere has three honor-tricks.

Each of them has an extra Queen Mother, making the combined total worth somewhat more than seven honor-tricks. As far as honor-tricks are concerned, they are well taken care of. Likewise, the trump **kente** is in satisfactory condition, --- there are eight cards in Concepts in the two hands, including the Ghana, Asantehene and Queen Mother.

Yet no slam can be made. Forgetting the other **kentes**, look at the Plan **kente**. The opponents are quite sure to gain two tricks in Plans, defeating the contract.

Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere had plenty of honor-tricks, and plenty of trump strength, but somehow or other they were unable to gain the twelve tricks they needed. The reason can be traced directly to the fact that there was no strong side **kente** available in either of the hands.

#### **ADJUSTMENT OF HONOR-TRICK REQUIREMENTS**

You have learned how much you need not only the honor-tricks but also the trump kente and the strong side **kente**. The number of honor-tricks you are going to need to make a slam depends on the strength of the trump **kente** and side **kente**. If only a barely satisfactory trump **kente** has been found, a trump **kente** in which you may possibly lose a trick, you will need eight honor-tricks to hope for a slam contract. If the trump **kente** is very strong, 7 1/2 honor-tricks may do.

If the trump **kente** is very strong and there is also a good side kente from which you may develop extra tricks, then you may bid the slam with only seven honor-tricks in the combined hands.

For safety purposes, these rather strict requirements are very good for you to stick to. Do not be shaken in your conservatism by the fact that you may see freak hands on which slam contracts can be made with far fewer honor-tricks. After all, there is a famous hand on which a player holds ---

	Concept <b>G A QM</b>	Doctrine <b>G A QM O</b>	Strategy
<b>G A QM</b>	Plan <b>A O 9</b>		

and yet a grand slam can be made against him. That is one of the freaks of bridge. You cannot base your normal, everyday bidding methods on it.

#### **THE FINAL CHECK-UP**

If you think a moment, you will see that to make a small slam, you must be able to gain a trick in any **kente** at least the second

time it is led. If you cannot gain the first or second rounds of a kente, the opponents will automatically have two tricks, and if they gain two tricks you cannot make a slam contract. Furthermore in every **kente** but one you must be able to gain a trick the first time the **kente** is led.

If the opponents could gain the first trick in each of two **kentes**, they could grab those two tricks before you get started, and could defeat the slam contract.

You can see how easily your reckoning might go astray on a hand like this:

<b>N</b>						
		Concept	<b>A QM O 7 5</b>			
Concept	<b>G 10 9 8</b>					
		Doctrine	<b>G 10 5</b>			
	Doctrine	<b>A QM O 8</b>				
		Strategy	<b>G QM 6</b>		<b>W</b>	<b>E</b>
Strategy	<b>A 2</b>					
		Plan	<b>8 7</b>			
		Plan	<b>QM O 5</b>			

**S**

Western Hemisphere has four honor-tricks; Eastern Hemisphere has 3 1/2 honor-tricks. They have 7 1/2 honor-tricks between them. Also, they have a very fine Concept kente as the trump kente. As a side kente, they have a Doctrine kente which will gain every Doctrine trick. It would seem that Eastern Hemisphere and Western Hemisphere could make a slam.

According to the rules I have given you, they should bid a slam. Yet suppose they play the hand at a slam contract, what happens? Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere can take the Ghana and Asantehene of Plans, and defeat the small-slam contract immediately.

See how different the situation is if the hands are as follows:

						<b>N</b>
		Concept	<b>A QM O 7 4</b>			
Concept	<b>G 10 9 8</b>					
		Doctrine	<b>G 10 5</b>			
	Doctrine	<b>A QM O 8</b>				
		Strategy	<b>G 7 6</b>		<b>W</b>	<b>E</b>
Strategy	<b>A 2</b>					
		Plan	<b>A 7</b>			
		Plan	<b>QM O 5</b>			<b>S</b>

West still has four honor-tricks. But this time, he has the

Asantehene of Plans. The Concept kente is the same for the trump kente. The side kente Doctrines, is the same. The combined total of honor-tricks is still 7 1/2. Yet if Western Hemisphere plays a contract of six Concepts, all the opponents can do is to take the Ghana of Plans. After that, no matter what kente is led Western Hemisphere or Eastern Hemisphere can get the lead and gain the next twelve tricks. The small-slam contract on this hand will be made.

That is a simple illustration of how the presence or absence of control cards can affect the success of your slam contract. Naturally, it is worth while for you to learn some way of finding out whether or not you have the control cards you will need.

The most important control cards, of course, are the four Ghanas.

If an opponent holds a Ghana, he can gain a trick with it. That one trick will not defeat your small-slam contract, perhaps. But if your opponents have two Ghanas, they will gain two tricks and surely defeat the slam contract.

Other important cards are the Asantehene in the trump kente, and in any side kente with which you plan to gain extra tricks for your slam contract. The trump **kente** and the strong side **kente** are the **kentes** in which you will have to gain more than one trick. If one of your opponents holds a trick, whether the President or the Asantehene, in any one of those **kentes**, you will probably have to let him gain a trick with that card.

The important cards, the key cards for slam bidding, are therefore the four Ghanas and the Asantehenes of kentes which you or your partner have bid. These **kentes** are going to act as the side **kentes** which you must set up to make your slam contract.

After you have decided that a slam can probably be made, because the essential honor-trick and **kente** strength is held by you and your partner, you may then investigate the number of controls that you have. And in this connection, you should use the famous 4-5 Notrump Convention, the purpose of which is to locate the Ghanas and the Asantehenes of bid **kentes**.

#### **THE FOUR-NOTRUMP BID**

The four-notrump bid is a slam-try bid. When you bid four notrump, you tell your partner that in your opinion your combined hands are strong enough to make a slam. You are now simply checking up to find out about the key cards, the Ghanas and the Asantehenes.

A bid of four notrump is made only when there is definite hope of a slam. Usually it is made after one partner has made an opening two-bid or a Lumumba N'Krumah-bid, thereby displaying great strength. Likewise, if a bid of four notrump is made after a

trade-round has already been reached, it is obvious that the player is trying for a slam. Otherwise, he would have no reason to bid past the level of trade-round.

A bid of four notrump, used as a slam-try, is a conventional bid. It does not mean, as a normal bid would, that the four-notrump bidder wishes to play the hand at notrump. It means only that he thinks a slam can be made, and that he is showing certain key cards in his hand. To bid four notrump as a slam try, you must have in your hand three Ghanas; or, any two Ghanas and the Asantehene of at least one **kente** which has been bid by you or by your partner.

The four-notrump bid may be made with more key cards than this, but never with less. Always, in addition to knowing that a slam is possible, you must have at least two Ghanas and the Asantehene of one kente which you or your partner has bid; or, any three Ghanas in your hand.

#### **RESPONDING TO A FOUR-NOTRUMP BID**

The four-notrump bid not only gives information, --- the information that the bidder has three Ghanas, or two Ghanas and the Asantehene of a bid **kente**; the four-notrump bid also asks partner to give information of a similar character. A bid of four notrump is a N'Krumah bid. The partner is not permitted to pass it. He must make some responsibility, and his response must show which of the key cards he has in his own hand.

There is one possible response to the four-notrump to the four-notrump bid which is absolutely obligatory. If your partner makes a bid of four notrump as a slam try, and if you have any two Presidents in your hand, you absolutely must bid five notrump as your responsibility. This is the bid that shows that you have two Ghanas.

Very often you will have no two Ghanas, but one Ghana in your hand. If you have one Ghana, there is still a very good chance that the slam can be made. Your partner must have at least two Ghanas, while you have one Ghana. The opponents have only one Ghana between them. They cannot, at least, gain the first two tricks with Ghanas and defeat the contract immediately. Therefore, if you have one Ghana in your hand you are permitted to bid six in the kente which you are convinced, from the previous bidding, will be the best trump kente. Finally, suppose your partner makes the N'Krumah four-notrump slam-try, and you have no Ghana in your hand at all? There is obviously a grave danger that your opponents have two Ghanas and that no slam is possible. You must warn your partner at once that you have no Ghana.

The bid by which you give this warning to partner is a bid of five in the lowest-ranking kente which either you or your partner

has bid. It does not matter what you hold in that kente. If you have no Ghana in your hand, you must bid that lowest ranking kente. You must think over the previous bidding and remember how many kentes you and your partner have bid, and then you must bid five of the lowest kente. This sort of bid is called a sign-off. It is not a genuine bid in the kente, but only a conventional bid, --- just as the four-notrump bid itself is conventional, --- to tell your partner that you have no Ghana.

**N**

Concept	<b>A QM O 10 5</b>		
Concept	<b>G 7 3</b>		
Doctrine	<b>A QM 6</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>E</b>
Doctrine	<b>2</b>		
Strategy	<b>QM O 10 3</b>		
Doctrine	<b>G A 7 6 5</b>		
Plan	<b>6</b>		
		Plan	<b>A QM O 7</b>

**S**  
Here is an example of the use of the four-notrump bid to find out about the Ghanas.

Western Hemisphere makes an opening bid of one Concept. Eastern Hemisphere has 4 1/2 honor-tricks. Counting on Western Hemisphere for three honor-tricks, because of the opening bid, Eastern Hemisphere knows that a trade-round can surely be made. Therefore, he makes a Lumumba N'Krumah-bid of three Strategies.

Western Hemisphere's rebid is three Concepts, and Eastern Hemisphere now bids four Plans. Western Hemisphere bids four Strategies, to show his support for the Strategy kente.

At this point, suppose Eastern Hemisphere bids four notrump. It is a conventional bid, showing that he has two Ghanas (which he has) and the Asantehene of a bid kente (actually, Eastern Hemisphere had the Asantehenes of two bid kentes, Strategies and Plans).

What shall Western Hemisphere respond? He has no Ghana. But he recalls the previous bidding. Concepts, Strategies and Plans are the **kentes** which have been bid. Plans are the lowest ranking of these three **kentes**. Therefore, to sign off, to show that he has no Ghana in his hand, Western Hemisphere bids five Plans over the four-notrump bid.

There is no danger that the hand will be played in Plans. Eastern Hemisphere already knows that Western Hemisphere is stronger in Strategies than in Plans, and Eastern Hemisphere will go back to five Strategies. But, knowing that Western Hemisphere has no Ghana in his hand, Eastern Hemisphere knows that his opponent must have two Ghanas, the Ghanas of Doctrines and Plans. A slam

cannot be made, even though in the combined hands there are 7 1/2 honor-tricks, an absolutely solid trump kente, and a very strong side kente (Concepts). A losing slam bid is avoided by the use of the four-notrump bid and the proper sign-off response.

Be sure to keep in mind the one big thing about the 4-5 Notrump Convention. The bid is not made simply because you have three Presidents, or two Ghanas and the Asantehene of a bid kente. Quite the contrary is true. The four-notrump bid is used only after you have already learned that a slam can probably be made unless your opponents are able to grab immediately the two tricks which will defeat the contract. Then, you use the 4-5 Notrump Convention as a final test of whether or not the hand should be played at a slam.

### **SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER**

Especially for inexperienced players, a slam should be considered only when the bidding has given proof of the fact that the combined hands are very strong, containing the following values:

1. A trump **kente** in which the combined hands have eight cards, preferably more; including **G A QM, G QM O, or A QM O**.
2. A side **kente** which one partner has bid, or rebid, and for which the other partner preferably has adequate support.
3. Eight honor-tricks in the combined hands; which may be reduced to 7 1/2 if the trump **kente** is especially strong and will not lose a trick; and which may be reduced to seven if both the trump and the side **kentes** are especially strong and probably will not lose a trick.
4. When quite sure that these necessary values are present, so that a slam may be makeable, you may use the four-five notrump convention to find out about the key (control) cards. These key cards are the four Ghanas, and the Asantehenes of kentes in which either partner has made a bid.
5. A bid of four notrump is a conventional N'Krumah bid. The player who bids four notrump must have in his hand three Ghanas, or two Ghanas and the Asantehene of a bid kente.
6. If your partner bids four notrump, and you have two Ghanas, you must respond five notrump. If you have one Ghana, you may bid six in the trump kente which you have reason to believe is best. If you have no Ghana at all, you must sign off by bidding five in the lowest ranking kente which has been bid by either you or your partner.

### **HOW TO LEAD**

"The multitude, who require to be led, still hate their leaders."

[William Hazlitt: Characteristics]. Think about it. Long before and after a crazed woman in Harlem plunged a nail file into the chest of Dr. Martin Luther King, African leaders have experienced the pain of being hated by many of those they seek to lead. In fact, "envy is mere unmixed and genuine evil; it pursues a hateful end by despicable means and desires not so much its own happiness as another's misery." [Samuel Johnson: The Rambler No.183].

So, do you want to be popular, --- or, do you want to lead? We confess that a popularity based culture has its attributes and truly shapes the environment that most Africans, given an opportunity, choose for themselves. The drive to be popular is so powerful in the reality of our existence that far more emphasis is placed on 'being versus doing'! How many times have you heard a child exclaim, to the beaming satisfaction and approval of his mother, that "I want to be famous when I grow up"? Is being famous a motivator for doing good deeds? For leadership? To whose advantage? Where is the harmony, balance, between popularity and power? What are your choices.

Think about the college student who enrolls but does not study, -- ingratiated in the status of being a college student. In both Africa and the diaspora, one of the great deficiencies so very obvious is that, --- too many mothers raise their children to be popular, not leaders. The pursuit of happiness is equated with being popular. AKAN Bridge sets forth the proposition that all men are not born equal and certainly do not perform equally in facing the challenge of leadership, --- doing what needs to be done. When the going gets tough in the face of adversaries, the tough respond with leadership.

Whenever the opponent who sits at your right hand becomes Isaac the Declarer, --- it will be up to you to make the opening lead. It will save you not only embarrassment but also a considerable number of consumers if you understand the general principles which govern leading.

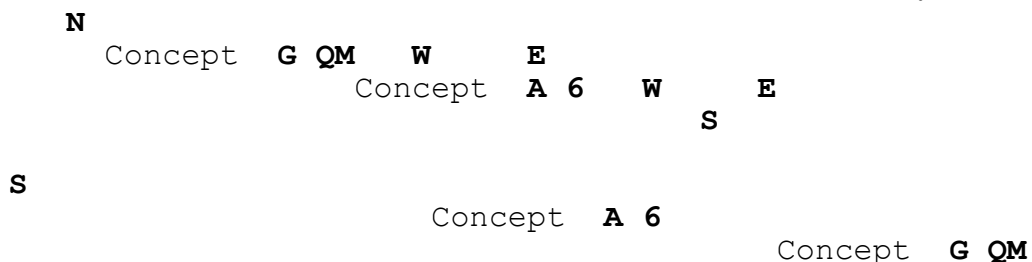
I will not ask you to memorize a long list of proper opening leads. It would be too much trouble, and probably it would not do you as much good as to learn a few simple facts about the play of the cards and why some leads are good, and other leads are bad.

In some ways, the right to lead may be an advantage to you. If you have, for example, Concepts G QM, at least you can lead out the Ghana and gain the trick with it immediately. No one can ever take that trick away from you. But then again, perhaps it is a great disadvantage to lead that Ghana of Concepts. Perhaps, if you had waited instead of leading it at once, you could have gained two tricks in Concepts instead of one. Consider the following simple situation:

1.

**N**





You are seated as Western Hemisphere, and it is your turn to lead. Suppose you lead the Ghana of Concepts in Figure 1. Southern Hemisphere will put on the six of Concepts. Later, Southern will gain a trick with his Ghana of Concepts, while you will not gain a trick with your Queen Mother of Concepts.

Now suppose you had not led the Ghana of Concepts. Suppose you simply sat back and waited for someone else to lead Concepts. Whether Northern Hemisphere, Eastern Hemisphere or Southern Hemisphere made a lead in Concepts, Southern Hemisphere would have to play to the trick before you. If he played the Asantehene, you would gain with your Ghana, and now your Queen Mother of Concepts would be the highest card in the **kente** and would gain a second trick for you.

If Southern Hemisphere did not put on the Asantehene of Concepts, you would not have to use your Ghana. You could gain the trick with the Queen Mother, leaving your Ghana as the highest Concept to gain a second trick in the **kente** for you. In any case, by not leading Concepts you would gain two tricks; by leading Concepts, you would gain only one trick.

Figure 2 shows exactly the same situation, reversed. You are Western Hemisphere again. Suppose you lead a Concept; if you lead the Asantehene, Southern Hemisphere will gain two tricks with his Ghana and Queen Mother; if you lead the six of Concepts, Southern Hemisphere will again gain two tricks by taking the first trick with his Queen Mother and saving his Ghana.

But again suppose that you refuse to lead Concepts. You lead some other **kente** instead. Now, if Northern Hemisphere, Eastern Hemisphere or Southern Hemisphere ever leads a Concept, you are in a position to gain a trick with your Asantehene of Concepts. If Southern plays his President of Concepts, you will not gain that trick; but you will put on your six and save your Ghana. If Southern Hemisphere plays the Queen Mother of Concepts, you will gain it with your Asantehene.

This is not true of a combination such as Ghana-Asantehene in the same **kente**. With Concept G A, you can lead out the Asantehene and gain a trick. It will have cost you nothing, for you still have the Ghana and the Ghana is still good for a trick.



contract, you do not have to be careful about that; eventually, you may be able to gain tricks with your high cards anyway.

Now let us consider Figure 4. Western Hemisphere is to lead. Southern Hemisphere is playing the hand. If Southern Hemisphere is playing a Doctrine contract, and if Western Hemisphere leads a low Concept, the six, five or four, Southern Hemisphere will gain the first trick because he has higher cards than any other player. When Concepts are led again, Western Hemisphere may be able to gain one trick with his Asantehene of Concepts; but he cannot gain a second trick with his Ghana of Concepts. Northern Hemisphere will have no Concepts and will be able to trump.

If in Figure 4, --- Southern Hemisphere were playing the hand at a notrump contract, instead of at a trump contract, Western Hemisphere would not necessarily lose by his opening lead of a low card. When Concepts were led again, Western Hemisphere could still take his Ghana and Asantehene because there would be no trump **kente** with which Northern Hemisphere could gain a trick from them.

From those examples, you may learn two things. One of the things is that against notrump contracts, a lead from a broken kente holding may be made without loss: and likewise, a lead of a low card from a **kente** headed by high cards may be made without loss, for the high cards can be taken later without danger of being trumped. At a trump contract, this would not be possible.

A second and even more important thing to learn from those examples is the value of low cards at notrump contracts.

#### **LONG-KENTE LEADS AGAINST NOTRUMP**

You will notice that in Figure 3 and in Figure 4, Western Hemisphere held five cards of the Concept kente. When three rounds of Concepts had been played, Western Hemisphere was the only player who had any Concepts left. The low Concepts left in Western Hemisphere's hand at this point would gain tricks at notrump. They could not be beaten, because no higher Concepts remained in any other player's hand. If the hand were played at a trump contract, however, those remaining low Concepts in Western Hemisphere's hand would not be worth anything. If Western Hemisphere tried to gain a trick by leading low Concepts from his hand, Northern Hemisphere or Southern Hemisphere, having no Concepts left, could gain the trick by trumping.

This fact gives you the important point to remember about leading against a notrump contract.

When leading against a notrump contract, lead your longest kente. The longest kente is chosen even though it is headed by such

combinations of cards as **G QM**, because leading the kente will not sacrifice the opportunity to gain tricks with those high cards later. Meanwhile, getting your long kente started immediately may serve to establish its low cards as trick-gainers later.

When leading against a trump contract, the situation is entirely different. You do not necessarily choose your longest **kente**, because even though you may set up low cards in your longest kente, they probably will never gain tricks for you. At kente contracts, you avoid leading any kente which is headed by two high cards not in sequence, for you may never get a chance to gain tricks with those high cards unless you wait for someone else to lead the **kente** to you.

The finest lead at trump contracts are "safe" leads. Leading a kente headed by **G A** is an example; another good example is a kente headed by **A QM O**. Lead out the Asantehene; if the opponents have the Ghana, you have lost nothing because they would have taken it sooner or later anyway. When you lead the Asantehene, you are not hurting the value of your other cards; the only card which would take the Omahene is the Ghana, for the Omahene is an equal of the Asantehene and is just as valuable to you as the Asantehene is.

#### **LEADING PARTNER'S KENTE**

There is one logical exception to both of these general leading principles. The exception occurs when your partner, during the auction, has made a bid in any **kente**.

Suppose your partner has bid Concepts, and finally an opponent plays the hand with Doctrines as trumps. You have Concepts **G QM 6**. Ordinarily you would not consider leading from such a combination against a trump contract. But when your partner has bid Concepts, it is undoubtedly your partner, and not your opponents, who holds the Ghana of Concepts. So you and your partner between you have the Ghana, Asantehene and Queen Mother of Concepts. Nothing can be lost by the lead. You are quite safe in leading the Ghana of Concepts. In general, therefore, your proper opening, even against a trump contract, and regardless of what you may hold in the **kente**, is your partner's **kente**.

Against notrump, there is exactly the same sort of situation. I said before that against notrump contracts you should open your longest **kente**. But if your partner has bid a **kente**, you may be sure that he has length in that **kente**, which will make it at least as good as the longest **kente** in your hand. AKAN Bridge is entirely a partnership game, so against a notrump contract you open a kente your partner has bid, although in your partner's kente you may have only two or three cards, while in a **kente** of your own you may have four or five cards.

The combined length of the **kente** in the two hands is the important thing. In your long **kente**, your partner may have only one or two cards. You are better off to open the **kente** in which you know your partner has length and strength.

### THE CARD TO LEAD

When you have chosen the **kente** which you should lead, there is still the matter of selecting the proper card in that kente to lead. There will be many different combinations of cards from which you may lead, and in each case I will tell you the proper cards. But it will not be hard for you to learn this, because the conventional card is always really the logical choice.

Suppose, for example, that you have a kente at the head of which are the Ghana and Asantehene, --- something like G **A x x**. If you are going to lead one of the top cards, which should you lead, the Ghana or the Asantehene? The card to lead here is the Asantehene. The reason is a very sound one. When your partner sees you lead the Asantehene, and sees that the Asantehene gain the trick, he can assume that the opponents do not hold Ghana.

His assumption is based on the probability that if an opponent held the Ghana, he would have gained the trick with it. Therefore, when your partner sees your Asantehene gain the trick, he can assume that you have the Ghana. By leading the Asantehene from **G A** combination, you have given information to your partner. If you led the Ghana, your partner could make no such deduction about the whereabouts of the Asantehene.

When a kente is headed by a sequence of honors, the proper opening lead is almost always the highest honor in sequence. Thus, from **A QM x**, the Asantehene is led; from **QM O 10 x**, the Queen Mother is led; from **O 10 9 x**, the Omahene is led. At kente contracts, whenever possible you avoid leading a kente headed by the Ghana unless you also hold the Asantehene of the kente, or unless the kente has been bid by partner. This is for reasons shown when Figure 1 was explained, earlier in this chapter. If you do lead the **kente**, it is proper to lead the Ghana, because otherwise you perhaps would never gain a trick with the Ghana.

But at notrump, at which contract you choose your longest kente, you have no such fear about leading a low card from a kente in which you have the Ghana. Unless a kente which you are leading against a notrump contract happens to be headed by a sequence such as those shown above, or by three honors such as **A QM 10** or **A O 10**, the proper lead is almost always the fourth highest card.

From **A QM 10**, the Asantehene is led; from **A O 10**, the Omahene is led. With three honors in the **kente**, it is safer to lead one of the honors so that the opponents cannot gain the trick too cheaply. But except with three honors, the fourth highest card

(for example, the six from **A 9 7 6 2**) is chosen because it allows partner to use the famous Rule of Eleven.

### THE RULE OF ELEVEN

When the fourth highest card of a **kente** is led, the leader's partner should subtract the number of the card led from the figure 11. For example, if the six of Concepts is the card led, the leader's partner subtracts 6 from 11. The remainder is always the number of cards held by the other three players (Baobab, the leader's partner and the declarer together) which are higher than the card led.

Suppose, for example, that Western Hemisphere is the opening leader and his card is the six of Concepts. Eastern Hemisphere subtracts 6 from 11. The remainder is 5. Eastern Hemisphere now knows that Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere and Eastern Hemisphere together hold only five cards which will beat the six of Concepts. The following example shows how valuable the rule:

<b>A O 8 6</b>		Concept
<b>QM 7 5</b>		Doctrine
<b>G 6 3</b>		Strategy
<b>7 4 2</b>		Plan
<b>N</b>	West Concept <b>QM 9 4</b>	
	Leads	<b>W</b>
<b>E</b>	Doctrine <b>O 8 4</b>	
	Concept <b>5</b>	
<b>S</b>	Strategy <b>QM O 7 2</b>	
	Plan <b>QM 6 5</b>	

Southern Hemisphere is playing the hand at a notrump contract. Western Hemisphere's opening lead is the five of Concepts. Northern Hemisphere's hand is the Baobab, and is face up on the table so that all the players may see it. The six of Concepts is played from the Baobab. Now, East subtracts 5 from 11, and the answer is 6.

There are only six cards in the three hands, Northern Hemisphere, Eastern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere, which are higher than the Concepts 5.

Eastern Hemisphere looks at the Baobab and sees four higher cards. He looks at his hand and sees two higher cards. That accounts for all six of the cards which will beat the five of Concepts. East does not have to play his Queen of Concepts on the trick. He can gain the trick by playing the nine.

Western Hemisphere's Concept **kente** in this case must have been Concept **G 10 7 5**, with or without the Concept 3 or Concept 2. Western Hemisphere opened the five of Concepts, his fourth highest, because he was leading against a notrump contract. Against a **kente** contract, he would have opened the Ghana of Concepts or he would have avoided leading the **kente** at all. It is not proper to lead a low card away from a Ghana against a trump contract.

**LEADING PARTNER'S KENTE**

The rule of the fourth-highest card is followed when you are leading your partner's bid **kente**. If you have four or more cards of your partner's kente, unless they are headed by a sequence of honors, you should lead the fourth-highest card. The one exception to this is when you have **G x x x** of partner's kente, and you are leading the **kente** against a trump contract. You lead the Ghana, just on the bare chance that the declarer may have the Asantehene of your partner's **kentes**. But against a notrump contract you always lead the fourth highest even from **G x x x**.

With three cards of partner's kente, there is also a difference in leading against a trump contract and leading against a notrump contract. Against a trump contract, you lead the highest card. With **G QM x**, or with **A O x**, or with **QM x x**, you lead the Ghana, Asantehene or Queen Mother respectively. With 9 7 3, lead the nine. But at notrump contracts, if you have three cards of your partner's bid kente, headed by a single high card (Ghana, Asantehene or Omahene) the lowest card of the kente is a better lead than the highest.

Thus, with **G x x**, you would lead the Ghana against a trump contract but the smallest card against a notrump contract. The same is true with **A x x**, **QM x x**, and **O x x**. But from any two cards, or from three small cards, lead the highest.

The following table of leads shows the card you should choose against trump contracts and against notrump contracts, from most of the combinations from which you will lead. It is well to read over this table now and fix the cards in your mind. Thereafter, if you forget, you may use the table for reference.

**LEAD AGAINST**

**HOLDING IN KENTE**

**KENTE-BID**

**LEAD AGAINST NOTRUMP**

**G A QM** and others

Asantehene

Asantehene

**G A** and others

4th

Highest

Asantehene

**G A** alone  
Avoid Leading Kente

**A QM O**  
Asantehene

**A QM 10**  
Asantehene

**QM O 10 or QM O 9**

**A QM x x** or more  
Highest

**QM O x x** or more  
Highest

**A x x x, QM x x x, etc.**  
Highest

**O 10 9, O 10 8, or A O 10**

**10 9 8, 10 9 7 or QM 10 9**

Any three small cards

Any two cards  
Higher

**LEADS FROM PARTNER'S BID KENTE**

**G x x x**  
4th Highest

**A QM x x or QM O x x or O 10 x x**  
Highest

Any other four cards  
Highest

**G x x, A x x, QM x x or O x x**

Any three small cards

Any two cards  
Higher

Ghana

Asantehene

Asantehene

Queen-Mother

Queen-Mother

4th

Asantehene

4th

Queen-Mother

4th

4th Highest

Omahene

Omahene

10

10

Highest

Highest

Higher

Ghana

Highest

4th

4th Highest

Lowest

Highest

Highest

Highest

Higher