

The example is from the Encyclopedia of Bridge (5th edition by Francis, Truscott and Francis).



According to the book the best plan is to lead small to the eight and if this loses to a high honor then finesse the jack next. The chances for 2 tricks are 39%.

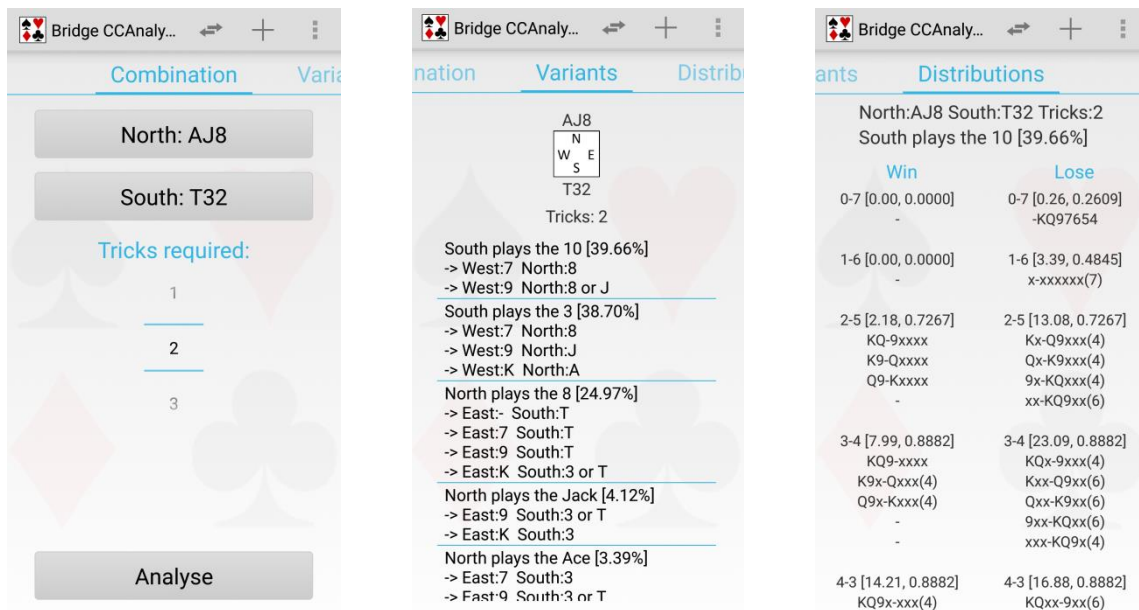


Figure 1

As can be seen from Figure 1 the analysis agrees on the 39% for the mentioned plan (38.70%). But more interestingly the analysis also shows that it is a better chance to run the ten in trick one: If the ten is covered by an honor in West it is won in dummy by the Ace followed by a finesse with a low card from the hand to the eight. If the ten loses to an honor in East the last honor is finessed by a low card from the hand to the Jack in the next round.

Comparing the two lines gives the following result.

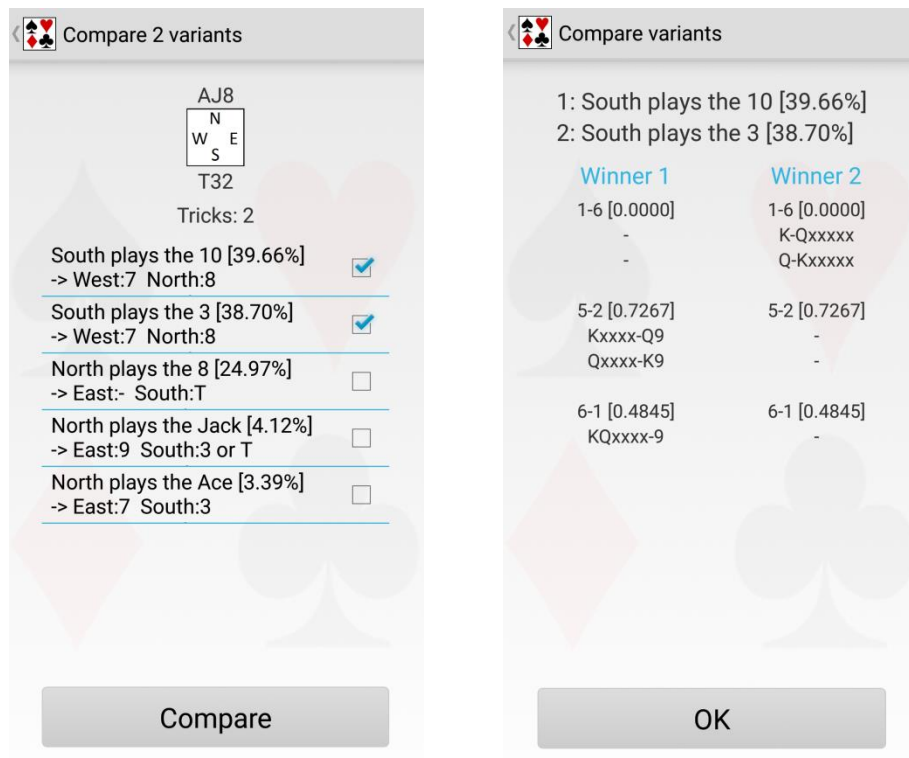


Figure 2

Running the T loses to K or Q single in West but wins against Q9 or K9 double in East or 9 single in East improving the chances for success with 0.97% to 39.66%.