

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 5
♥ A Q 8 5
♦ 5 4 3
♣ Q J 10 2

13
9 6
12

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

♠ A Q 10 6
♥ 7
♦ K J 9 6 2
♣ K 6 5



♠ K J 7 2
♥ K J 10 3 2
♦ 7
♣ A 7 4

North

1 ♦

1 ♠

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

4 ♠

The bidding has been as shown. The contract is 4 ♠ and it is your lead.

When you have made your choice

You have ♦ winners, but dummy will surely be short since he has at least 8 cards in the Major suits.

Partner has whatever ♥ strength your side possesses.

It is very likely that declarer will want to do some cross-trumping. To try to cut that down your best lead is a trump.

Just imagine that declarer wins the first ♠ in his hand and plays a ♥ to dummy's honors. West will win and play another trump. Whenever you win your first ♦

you will play your last trump.

As you can imagine, declarer will be in a whole lot of trouble.

Deal 2

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 7 2
♥ K 8 7
♦ K Q J
♣ A 8 5 4

2
13 21
4

West	North	East	South
6 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
6 NT by East		Pass	Pass
Lead: ♥ 6			

♠ 10 5
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ 9 6 5 4 3
♣ J 9



♠ K J 9 4 3
♥ 6 5 3
♦ 8 2
♣ 10 6 2

♠ A Q 6
♥ A Q 9
♦ A 10 7
♣ K Q 7 3

The bidding has been as shown. The contract is 6 NT and it is your lead.

When you have made your choice

You held this identical hand in Deal 3. The declarer was playing 3 NT and the best lead was the ♠ 4, fourth down.

It's different when the contract is 6 NT. Against 6 NT you should make a passive lead, which means don't underlead any honors. Against 6 NT you have little chance of establishing a suit to win four or five tricks. Instead, you just want to try to not give declarer an undeserved trick.

So any passive lead would be OK, you pick the ♥ just because they are less likely to have an unbid 4-card Major in either

hand.

Declarer has 11 winners sitting there; if you had led a low ♠ you would have handed him his 12 trick on a platter.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 8 5 4
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ 10 2

♠ A 2
♥ A 9 7
♦ 10 5 3
♣ A K Q 7 6



♠ Q 9 7 6 3
♥ 10 4 3
♦ 4
♣ 9 8 4 3

17
6 2
15

♠ J 10
♥ K Q J
♦ A Q J 9 8 7
♣ J 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 ♦ by South			
Lead: ♠ 4			

smooth sailing.

The bidding has been as shown. The contract is 6 ♦ and it is your lead.

When you have made your choice

Against a notrump slam it is best to make a passive lead so you don't give declarer an undeserved winner.

Against a suit slam the situation is very different. Against strong dummy bidding like this you are pretty sure that if you don't establish a winner early declarer will find something in dummy to discard losers on. In this hand it is dummy's ♣ suit.

Your most promising suit is ♠s. Obviously partner has a very weak hand, but if he has the ♠Q you can set up your ♠K before your King of trumps is dislodged.

Without a ♠ lead declarer will have

Deal 4

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 4 3
♥ A 9 8
♦ A J 10 6
♣ Q 10 4

9
15 10
6

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by West			
Lead: ♥ 4			

♠ Q J 10 8
♥ Q 10 5 4 2
♦ 7 3
♣ A 3



♠ K 6 2
♥ K 6 3
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ 7 6 5

♠ 9 7 5
♥ J 7
♦ K Q 8
♣ K J 9 8 2

The bidding has been as shown. The contract is 3 NT and it is your lead.

When you have made your choice

This is a close call. The top of your ♠ honor sequence is very tempting, but even when you find partner with the ♠ K you can still only establish three ♠ winners to go with your ♣ A. Unfortunately, that's not enough to defeat the contract.

Leading a ♥ from your 5-card suit is riskier, but it has the potential of setting up an additional winner. In this hand, as you see, the ♥ lead gets you 4 ♥ winners to go with your ♣ A.

Deal 5

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 6 2
♥ 10
♦ Q J 9 6
♣ Q 10 9 3

13
7 9
11

♠ A 9 3
♥ Q J 7 4 3
♦ K
♣ K 8 7 4



♠ K J 7 5
♥ A K 6 5
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ 5

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 2
♦ A 10 5 3
♣ A J 6 2

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♥ by North
Lead: ♥ 9

The bidding has been as shown. The contract is 4 ♥ and it is your lead.

When you have made your choice

A careful look at this hand shows just how bad it can turn out.

And leading from a doubleton in a suit the opponents have bid is almost as bad.

So by process of elimination you lead a trump, probably the ♥ 9.

And when North plays ♣s, (preparing to ruff in dummy), you will win and play another trump. Even if North guesses the ♠s correctly he will not be able to make the contract.