

**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**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ K J 9 4 3  
♥ 6 5 3  
♦ 8 2  
♣ 10 6 2

13  
4 2  
21

West

Pass

Pass

6 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 6

♠ 8 7 2  
♥ K 8 7  
♦ K Q J  
♣ A 8 5 4



♠ A Q 6  
♥ A Q 9  
♦ A 10 7  
♣ K Q 7 3

North

6 NT

East

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

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**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 6 3

♥ 10 4 3

♦ 4

♣ 9 8 4 3

15  
2 6  
17

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♦ by North

Lead: ♠ 4

♠ J 10

♥ K Q J

♦ A Q J 9 8 7

♣ J 5



♠ A 2

♥ A 9 7

♦ 10 5 3

♣ A K Q 7 6

North

1 ♦

3 ♦

5 ♦

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

4 NT

6 ♦

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 smooth sailing.

**Deal 4**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 10 8  
 ♥ Q 10 5 4 2  
 ♦ 7 3  
 ♣ A 3

10  
 9 6  
 15

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 4

♠ 9 7 5

♥ J 7

♦ K Q 8

♣ K J 9 8 2



♠ A 4 3

♥ A 9 8

♦ A J 10 6

♣ Q 10 4

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

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.