

**Deal 1**

South Deals	♠ 5 3		
None Vul	♥ K Q J		
	♦ Q J 10 9 7		
	♣ A 10 4		
♠ K Q J 10 8	♠ 4		
♥ 7 5 2	♥ 10 9 8 4		
♦ A 5	♦ 8 6 3 2		
♣ 9 6 3	♣ K 8 7 2		
	♠ A 9 7 6 2		
10 13 3	♥ A 6 3		
14	♦ K 4		
	♣ Q J 5		
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass
3 NT× by North			
Lead: ♠ 4			

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

When you have made your choice

If partner had not doubled the contract you would probably have started with the ♥T, or possibly the ♣ 2.

But partner DID double, and most good players play that doubling 3 NT is lead-directing as follows: If you have bid a suit, lead it. If doubler has bid a suit, lead it. If neither of you has bid, lead dummy's first bid suit.

So lead a ♠, certainly not a lead you would have made without the double. Partner immediately establishes 4 ♠ winners and he has the ♦ A for an entry.

With any other lead declarer will make the contract.

**Deal 2**

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A 8 6 4

♥ A J 6 5

♦ Q 7

♣ J 6 3

 $\begin{matrix} 11 \\ 12 \quad 15 \\ 2 \end{matrix}$ 

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

 ♠ K Q 7  
 ♥ K 10 9 8  
 ♦ A K 5  
 ♣ 10 9 2

♠ J 10 9 3

 ♥ 4 2  
 ♦ J 10 9 6 3

♣ 8 5

West

North

East

South

2 ♣

Dbl

1 NT

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by East

Lead: ♣ 8

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

When you have made your choice

If partner had not doubled West's Stayman 2 ♣ bid you would probably have started with one of your Jacks.

But partner DID double, and the double of a conventional bid clearly means that the doubler would like you to lead that suit.

So lead a ♣, and partner will take three ♣ tricks. With any other lead declarer would quickly discard a ♣ from dummy on a high ♦, easily making the contract.

Declarer may still make the contract if he guesses the ♥ Q correctly, but maybe not.

**Deal 3**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ 9 7 2  
♥ Q J 10 6  
♦ 10 7 6 2  
♣ 7 3

**20**  
**3 2**  
**15**

♠ A J 5  
♥ A 9 8 5 3  
♦ K Q  
♣ A Q 5

♠ 10 8 6 4  
♥ 7 2  
♦ J 9 3  
♣ J 10 9 8

♠ K Q 3  
♥ K 4  
♦ A 8 5 4  
♣ K 6 4 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
6 NT by South			
Lead: ♦ 2			

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

When you have made your choice

Admittedly the ♥ Q looks very tempting, but resist the temptation.

Since dummy bid ♥s, don't help declarer by leading the suit. Declarer has 11 tricks, and will hope to pick up one more in ♣s, but that won't happen.

But if you start with the ♥ Q, he will win with his ♥ K and can then establish an extra ♥ winner by leading through your ♥ J T into dummy's ♥ A 9.

With any lead other than a ♥ honor he cannot come to 12 tricks.

**Deal 4**

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 9 6 3  
♥ A 6  
♦ K 9  
♣ Q 10 8 5

<sup>11</sup>  
<sup>13</sup>   <sup>13</sup>  
3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass

4 ♠× by West  
Lead: ♣ A

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

N  
W    E  
S

♠ Q 10 8 5  
♥ K 5 4  
♦ A 10  
♣ K J 9 6

♠ 7 4 2  
♥ 9 8 7 2  
♦ Q J 6 4 2  
♣ 3

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

When you have made your choice

Did you choose the ♥ Q? I was afraid you would. That is wrong, but because this is the last Deal I'm going to give you another chance.

Look at the bidding carefully, then ask yourself why you doubled.

Now pick the opening lead that will set the contract, then

East/West apparently have 8 or more ♣s between them, which leaves partner with a singleton at most.

Partner will ruff the second ♣, and when you get into the lead with the Ace of

trumps you will play a third ♣ which he will again ruff.

That's why you doubled.