

Deal 1

South Deals	♠ A 10 2
None Vul	♥ AJ 7
	♦ J 8 6 2
	♣ K 6 5

♠ 8 7 5 4 3	♠ J 6
♥ Q 10 3	♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ A 4	♦ 9 7 5
♣ J 10 3	♣ A Q 9 8

W	N
S	E

13	♠ K Q 9
7 7	♥ K 6 4
13	♦ K Q 10 3
	♣ 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♥ 9			

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

When you have made your choice

Your ♣s are so good that all your instincts tell you to lead the ♣ 8, and perhaps set up 3 winners.

If you had one more small ♣s your instincts would be right, but with only a 4-card suit you should think a little longer. Three tricks won't set this contract, so you must depend on partner winning something. And if partner is going to win something perhaps he will lead a ♣ and you might make FOUR tricks in the suit.

So lead the ♥ 9. You lead a high card so partner won't be tempted to return the suit when he gets the lead. Note that although this lead finesse partner's ♥ Q, it didn't do anything that declarer wouldn't have done on his own.

Declarer must play ♦s to get some winners, and when West takes the ♦ A he will surely switch to the ♣ J. Down goes declarer.

Deal 2

East Deals	♠ K 10 8
None Vul	♥ 7
	♦ A 7 5 3 2
	♣ 8 5 3 2
♠ A 4 3	♠ 5
♥ J 10 2	♥ K Q 9 6 3
♦ Q J 10 9 8	♦ K 6
♣ A J	♣ K Q 10 9 6

7	♠ Q J 9 7 6 2
13 13	♥ A 8 5 4
7	♦ 4
	♣ 7 4

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♦	3 ♠	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

4 ♠×× by South
Lead: ♠ A

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

When you have made your choice

South's 2 ♠ bid is a Weak-jump Overcall, based on a 6-card ♠ suit and a weak hand.

Either the ♦ Q or ♥ J would normally be good leads.

But on this deal North/South have clearly sacrificed against your almost certain ♥ game. Since they don't have enough high-card strength to make this contract declarer is hoping to get some ruffs.

The way to cut down the number of ruffs he can make is to lead a trump at every opportunity.

So take the ♠ A and then play another ♠.

Declarer will still be able to ruff one ♥ in dummy, but will be left with two losing ♥s and will be down 2. Without the two trump plays he could have ruffed all three of his ♥ losers and actually made the contract.

Deal 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 9 2
♥ K 8 5
♦ A 8 6
♣ 10 9 7 5

¹⁵
9 5
¹¹

♠ A J 5
♥ A J 9
♦ Q J 10 3
♣ Q 8 4

N
W E
S

♠ K 8 7 3
♥ Q 10 7 3
♦ 7 5
♣ 6 3 2

♠ 10 6 4
♥ 6 4 2
♦ K 9 4 2
♣ A K J

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by North
Lead: ♥ 3

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

When you have made your choice

Sometimes it comes down to just this kind of choice. Do you lead fourth down from ♠ K 8 7 3 or from ♥ Q T 7 3.

The presence of the ♥T bolsters the ♥ suit enough to give it the edge.

The suits could be arranged something like shown at left. With a ♠ lead the presence of the ♠T in dummy allows declarer to make a second ♠ trick, which happens to be declarer's ninth trick.

But when you lead the ♥ 3 it does not promote a ♥ winner for declarer, and left to his own devices, he cannot establish the ♠ winner.

Deal 4

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 3
♥ K 6 3
♦ A 7 4
♣ 10 9 8 7 4

16
7 2
15

♠ A 10
♥ 9 4
♦ K Q J 9 8 3
♣ K Q J

♠ 8 7 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 2
♦ 10 5 2
♣ 6 3

♠ K Q J 9 5 4
♥ A J 10
♦ 6
♣ A 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ 3

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

When you have made your choice

The ♣T would probably be a very safe lead. But you don't want "safe", you want "attack".

Dummy has advertised a long, strong ♦ suit which declarer will no doubt establish for discards.

It is important for your side to create a winner before your ♦A is forced out. The most likely looking winner is your ♥K. So lead the small ♥ and hope partner has the Queen.