

**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**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ K 10 8  
♥ 7  
♦ A 7 5 3 2  
♣ 8 5 3 2

♠ 5  
♥ K Q 9 6 3  
♦ K 6  
♣ K Q 10 9 6

W   N   E   S  
 ♠ Q J 9 7 6 2  
 ♥ A 8 5 4  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ 7 4

13  
7 7  
13

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

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

4 ♠×× by East  
Lead: ♠ A

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.

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

When you have made your choice

East'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 West/East 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 ♠.

**Deal 3**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

♠ K 8 7 3  
 ♥ Q 10 7 3  
 ♦ 7 5  
 ♣ 6 3 2

11  
5 9  
15

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

♠ 10 6 4  
 ♥ 6 4 2  
 ♦ K 9 4 2  
 ♣ A K J

♠ Q 9 2  
 ♥ K 8 5  
 ♦ A 8 6  
 ♣ 10 9 7 5

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

N  
W E  
S

the ♠ winner.

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

**Deal 4**

East Deals

None Vul

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

W	N
S	E

7	8 7 2
15 16	♦ Q 8 7 5 2
2	♦ 10 5 2
	♣ 6 3

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

6 ♠ by West

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.

**Deal 5**

South Deals

None Vul

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

♠ K Q J 10 8

♥ 7 5 2

♦ A 5

♣ 9 6 3

13	10 3	14

W	N	E	S
♦ A 9 7 6 2	♠ 4	♥ 10 9 8 4	♦ 8 6 3 2

♣ Q J 5

West

North

East

South

Pass

2 NT

Pass

1 ♠

Dbl

Pass

Pass

3 NT

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 6**East Deals  
None Vul

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

<sup>11</sup>  
<sup>12</sup> <sup>15</sup>  
<sub>2</sub>

West      North      East      South  
 2♣      Dbl      2♥      Pass  
 4♥      Pass      Pass      Pass  
 4♥ by East  
 Lead: ♣ 8

♠ 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

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.