

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 4 3
♥ 9 6 4
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ 9 8 3

12
6 9
13

♠ K J 7 2
♥ K J 10 3 2
♦ 7
♣ A 7 4



♠ A Q 10 6
♥ 7
♦ K J 9 6 2
♣ K 6 5

♠ 8 5
♥ A Q 8 5
♦ 5 4 3
♣ Q J 10 2

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

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. East 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

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

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

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 2
♦ A 10 5 3
♣ A J 6 2

11
9 7
13

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♥ 9

♠ K J 7 5
♥ A K 6 5
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ 5



♠ A 9 3
♥ Q J 7 4 3
♦ K
♣ K 8 7 4

North

1 ♠
4 ♥

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♥
2 ♣
Pass

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