

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

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

13	♦ K J 7 2
9 6	♦ K J 10 3 2
12	♦ 7

N	♦ 9 4 3
W	♦ 9 6 4
E	♦ A Q 10 8
S	♣ 9 8 3

♣ A 7 4

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

4 ♠ by North

you will play your last trump.

As you can imagine, declarer will be in a whole lot of trouble.

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 ♦

Deal 2

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



13
4 2
21

West North East South
Pass 6 NT Pass 2 NT

Pass

6 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 6

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 3North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 6 3
 ♥ 10 4 3
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ J 10
 ♥ K Q J
 ♦ A Q J 9 8 7
 ♣ J 5



♠ 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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6♦ by North
 Lead: ♠ 4

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



10	♠ A 4 3
9 6	♥ A 9 8
15	♦ A J 10 6
	♣ Q 10 4

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 4			

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 5North Deals
None Vul

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

13
 7 9
11

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9 3
 ♥ Q J 7 4 3
 ♦ K
 ♣ K 8 7 4

♠ 8 4
 ♥ 9 8 2
 ♦ A 10 5 3
 ♣ A J 6 2

♠ K J 7 5
 ♥ A K 6 5
 ♦ 8 7 4 2
 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	4 ♥

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.