

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 7 5 4 3
♥ Q 10 3
♦ A 4
♣ J 10 3

13
7 7
13

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ 9

♠ A 10 2
♥ A J 7
♦ J 8 6 2
♣ K 6 5



♠ K Q 9
♥ K 6 4
♦ K Q 10 3
♣ 7 4 2

North

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♦

3 NT

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 finesses 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

None Vul

♠ A 4 3

♥ J 10 2

♦ Q J 10 9 8

♣ A J

7

13 13

7

West

3 ♦

4 ♥

Dbl

4 ♠×× by South

Lead: ♠ A

♠ K 10 8

♥ 7

♦ A 7 5 3 2

♣ 8 5 3 2



♠ Q J 9 7 6 2

♥ A 8 5 4

♦ 4

♣ 7 4

North

3 ♠

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♥

4 ♣

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

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

West

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♥ 3

♠ A J 5

♥ A J 9

♦ Q J 10 3

♣ Q 8 4



♠ 10 6 4

♥ 6 4 2

♦ K 9 4 2

♣ A K J

North

1 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 NT

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



♠ K Q J 9 5 4

♥ A J 10

♦ 6

♣ A 5 2

♠ 8 7 2

♥ Q 8 7 5 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 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.

Deal 5

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J 10 8
 ♥ 7 5 2
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ 9 6 3

13
 10 3
 14

West

Pass

Dbl

3 NT× by North

Lead: ♠ 4

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



♠ A 9 7 6 2
 ♥ A 6 3
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ Q J 5

North

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

3 NT

Pass

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

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 9 3
♥ 4 2
♦ J 10 9 6 3
♣ 8 5

12
2 11
15

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ 8

♠ A 8 6 4
♥ A J 6 5
♦ Q 7
♣ J 6 3



♠ K Q 7
♥ K 10 9 8
♦ A K 5
♣ 10 9 2

North

2 ♣
4 ♥

East

Dbl
Pass

South

1 NT
2 ♥
Pass

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 North'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.