

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 5
♥ J 10 5 2
♦ Q J 5 4
♣ K 6 3

15
7 7
11

West

Pass
3 NT by North
Lead: ♠ Q

♠ K 10 4
♥ K Q 9
♦ A 10 7
♣ Q J 9 7



♠ A 8 2
♥ 8 7 3
♦ K 9 2
♣ A 10 5 4

North

1 NT
Pass

East

Pass

South

3 NT

♠ Q J 9 6 3
♥ A 6 4
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 8 2

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

When you have made your choice

The top of a solid 3-card honor sequence is best, but as you can see, a broken 3-card sequence may work out just as good.

North will likely try the ♣ finesse, and when West wins the ♣ K he will return a ♠ through North's ♠T.

Deal 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 7 2
 ♥ K J 10 3 2
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A 7 4

9
 12 13
 6

West

1 ♥

4 ♠

4 ♠ by East

♠ 8 5

♥ A Q 8 5

♦ 5 4 3

♣ Q J 10 2



♠ 9 4 3

♥ 9 6 4

♦ A Q 10 8

♣ 9 8 3

North

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♦

1 ♠

Pass

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

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. North 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 3

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

♠ 10 5
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ 9 6 5 4 3
♣ J 9

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 4

West Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10

♥ K Q J

♦ A Q J 9 8 7

♣ J 5

6

15 17

2

West

1 ♦

3 ♦

5 ♦

Pass

6 ♦ by West

Lead: ♠ 4

♠ K 8 5 4

♥ 8 6 5 2

♦ K 6 2

♣ 10 2



♠ Q 9 7 6 3

♥ 10 4 3

♦ 4

♣ 9 8 4 3

North

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

East

2 ♣

4 NT

6 ♦

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

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.