

Board 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 7 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 2
♦ T 5 2
♣ 6 3

♠ K Q J 9 5 4

♥ A J T
♦ 6

♣ A 5 2

	N		♠ 6 3
W		E	♥ K 6 3
	S		♦ A 7 4
			♣ T 9 8 7 4

♠ A T
♥ 9 4
♦ K Q J 9 8 3
♣ K Q J

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

6 ♠ by North

Baker OLead 16

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.

Board 2

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A 9 7 6 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ K 4

♣ Q J 5

♠ K Q J T 8

♥ 7 5 2

♦ A 5

♣ 9 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 5 3

♥ K Q J

♦ Q J T 9 7

♣ A T 4

♠ 4

♥ T 9 8 4

♦ 8 6 3 2

♣ K 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Dbl	All Pass	

3NTX by West

With any other lead declarer will make the contract.

Baker OLead 17

The bidding has been as shown. The contract is 3NT 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 3NT 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.

Board 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J T 9 3
♥ 4 2
♦ J T 9 6 3
♣ 8 5

♠ A 8 6 4

♥ A J 6 5

♦ Q 7

♣ J 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 5 2
♥ Q 7 3
♦ 8 4 2
♣ A K Q 7 4

♠ K Q 7
♥ K T 9 8
♦ A K 5
♣ T 9 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Dbl	1NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

4♥ by North

Baker OLead 18

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.

Board 4

East Deals
Both Vul

♠ K Q 3
♥ K 4
♦ A 8 5 4
♣ K 6 4 2

♠ 9 7 2

♥ Q J T 6
♦ T 7 6 2

♣ 7 3

N
W E
S

♠ A J 5
♥ A 9 8 5 3
♦ K Q
♣ A Q 5

♠ T 8 6 4
♥ 7 2
♦ J 9 3
♣ J T 9 8

West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	1♥	Pass
		6NT	All Pass

6NT by East

Baker OLead 19

The bidding has been as shown. The contract is 6NT and it is your lead.

When you have made your choice

Admittedly the ♥Q looks very tempting, but resist the temptation.

Since dummy bid ♥s, don't help declarer by leading the suit. Declarer has 11 tricks, and will hope to pick up one more in ♣s, but that won't happen.

But if you start with the ♥Q, he will win with his ♥K and can then establish an extra ♥ winner by leading through your ♥ J T into dummy's ♥ A 9.

With any lead other than a ♥ honor he cannot come to 12 tricks.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 7 4 2
♥ 9 8 7 2
♦ Q J 6 4 2
♣ 3

♠ K J 9 6 3

♥ A 6
♦ K 9

♣ Q T 8 5

N
W E
S

♠ A
♥ Q J T 3
♦ 8 7 5 3
♣ A 7 4 2

♠ Q T 8 5
♥ K 5 4
♦ A T
♣ K J 9 6

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

4 ♠ X by South

Baker OLead 20

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

When you have made your choice

Did you choose the ♥Q? I was afraid you would. That is wrong, but because this is the last Deal I'm going to give you another chance.

Look at the bidding carefully, then ask yourself why you doubled.

Now pick the opening lead that will set the contract, then

South/North apparently have 8 or more ♣s between them, which leaves partner with a singleton at most.

Partner will ruff the second ♣, and when you get into the lead with the Ace of trumps you will play a third ♣ which he will again ruff.

That's why you doubled.