

<b>Deal 1</b>	♠ A 8 2		
South Deals	♥ 8 7 3		
None Vul	♦ K 9 2		
	♣ A 10 5 4		
♠ Q J 9 6 3	♠ 7 5		
♥ A 6 4	♥ J 10 5 2		
♦ 8 6 3	♦ Q J 5 4		
♣ 8 2	♣ K 6 3		
	♠ K 10 4		
7 7	♥ K Q 9		
15	♦ A 10 7		
	♣ Q J 9 7		
West	North	East	South
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			1 NT
Lead: ♠ Q			

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.

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

**Deal 2**

South Deals

None Vul

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

12	9
6	9
13	

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

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

N	
W	E
S	

♠ A Q 10 6

♥ 7

♦ K J 9 6 2

♣ K 6 5

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 3**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

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

13  
 4 2  
 21

N  
W E  
S

♠ 8 7 2  
 ♥ K 8 7  
 ♦ K Q J  
 ♣ A 8 5 4

♠ 10 5  
 ♥ J 10 4 2  
 ♦ 9 6 5 4 3  
 ♣ J 9

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 4**

South Deals

None Vul

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

♠ K 8 5 4  
 ♥ 8 6 5 2  
 ♦ K 6 2  
 ♣ 10 2

N  
W E  
S

♠ 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

<sup>17</sup>  
6 2  
15

<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 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