

**Board 1**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 5  
♥ A Q 8 5  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ Q J T 2

♠ A Q T 6

♥ 7

♦ K J 9 6 2

♣ K 6 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 4 3  
♥ 9 6 4  
♦ A Q T 8  
♣ 9 8 3

♠ K J 7 2  
♥ K J T 3 2  
♦ 7  
♣ A 7 4

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

4 ♠ by South

Baker OLead 6  
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 ♦ you will play your last trump.

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

**Board 2**

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

♠ T 5

♥ J T 4 2

♦ 9 6 5 4 3

♣ J 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 6  
♥ A Q 9  
♦ A T 7  
♣ K Q 7 3

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

West	North	East	South
		2NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

6NT by West

Declarer has 11 winners sitting there; if you had led a low ♠ you would have handed him his 12 trick on a platter.

**Baker OLead 7**

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

When you have made your choice

You held this identical hand in Deal 3. The declarer was playing 3NT and the best lead was the ♠4, fourth down.

It's different when the contract is 6NT. Against 6NT you should make a passive lead, which means don't underlead any honors. Against 6NT 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.

**Board 3**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

♠ A 2  
♥ A 9 7  
♦ T 5 3  
♣ A K Q 7 6  
N  
W E  
S  
♠ Q 9 7 6 3  
♥ T 4 3  
♦ 4  
♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ J T  
♥ K Q J  
♦ A Q J 9 8 7  
♣ J 5

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

6♦ by North

**Baker OLead 8**  
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.

**Board 4**

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A 4 3

♥ A 9 8

♦ A J T 6

♣ Q T 4

♠ Q J T 8

♥ Q T 5 4 2

♦ 7 3

♣ A 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 5

♥ J 7

♦ K Q 8

♣ K J 9 8 2

♠ K 6 2

♥ K 6 3

♦ 9 5 4 2

♣ 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3 NT by East

**Baker OLead 9**

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

**Board 5**

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q T 6 2

♥ T

♦ Q J 9 6

♣ Q T 9 3

♠ A 9 3

♥ Q J 7 4 3

♦ K

♣ K 8 7 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 4

♥ 9 8 2

♦ A T 5 3

♣ A J 6 2

♠ K J 7 5

♥ A K 6 5

♦ 8 7 4 2

♣ 5

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

4♥ by South

**Baker OLead 10**

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.