

Deal 1North Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 5
♥ J 10 5 2
♦ Q J 5 4
♣ K 6 3

15
7 7
11



♠ K 10 4
♥ K Q 9
♦ A 10 7
♣ Q J 9 7

♠ Q J 9 6 3
♥ A 6 4
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 8 2

♠ A 8 2
♥ 8 7 3
♦ K 9 2
♣ A 10 5 4

West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 3 NT

3 NT by North
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.

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

Deal 2
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 4 3
♥ 9 6 4
♦ A Q 10 8
♣ 9 8 3

12
6 9
13

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

♠ K J 7 2
♥ K J 10 3 2
♦ 7
♣ A 7 4

N
W E
S

♠ 8 5
♥ A Q 8 5
♦ 5 4 3
♣ Q J 10 2

♠ 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
North Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 5
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ 9 6 5 4 3
♣ J 9

21
2 4
13

West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 6 NT
6 NT by North
Lead: ♥ 6

♠ A Q 6
♥ A Q 9
♦ A 10 7
♣ K Q 7 3

N
W E
S

♠ K J 9 4 3
♥ 6 5 3
♦ 8 2
♣ 10 6 2

♠ 8 7 2
♥ K 8 7
♦ K Q J
♣ A 8 5 4

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

W	N
S	E

♠ 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

West	North	East	South
			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