

**Board 1**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 7 5 4 3

♥ Q T 3

♦ A 4

♣ J T 3

♠ A T 2

♥ A J 7

♦ J 8 6 2

♣ K 6 5



♠ J 6

♥ 9 8 5 2

♦ 9 7 5

♣ A Q 9 8

♠ K Q 9

♥ K 6 4

♦ K Q T 3

♣ 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3 NT by South

Declarer must play ♦s to get some winners, and when West takes the ♦A he will surely switch to the ♣J. Down goes declarer.

**Baker OLead 13**

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

When you have made your choice

Your ♣s are so good that all your instincts tell you to lead the ♣8, and perhaps set up 3 winners.

If you had one more small ♣s your instincts would be right, but with only a 4-card suit you should think a little longer. Three tricks won't set this contract, so you must depend on partner winning something. And if partner is going to win something perhaps he will lead a ♣ and you might make FOUR tricks in the suit.

So lead the ♥9. You lead a high card so partner won't be tempted to return the suit when he gets the lead. Note that although this lead finesse partner's ♥Q, it didn't do anything that declarer wouldn't have done on his own.

**Board 2**

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A 4 3

♥ J T 2

♦ Q J T 9 8

♣ A J

♠ K T 8

♥ 7

♦ A 7 5 3 2

♣ 8 5 3 2



♠ 5

♥ K Q 9 6 3

♦ K 6

♣ K Q T 9 6

♠ Q J 9 7 6 2

♥ A 8 5 4

♦ 4

♣ 7 4

West	North	East	South
		1♥	2♠
3♦	3♠	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠

4 ♠ X by South

his ♥ losers and actually made the contract.

**Baker OLead 14**

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

When you have made your choice

South's 2♠ bid is a Weak-jump Overcall, based on a 6-card ♠ suit and a weak hand.

Either the ♦ Q or ♥ J would normally be good leads.

But on this deal North/South have clearly sacrificed against your almost certain ♥ game. Since they don't have enough high-card strength to make this contract declarer is hoping to get some ruffs.

The way to cut down the number of ruffs he can make is to lead a trump at every opportunity.

So take the ♠ A and then play another ♠ . Declarer will still be able to ruff one ♥ in dummy, but will be left with two losing ♥'s and will be down 2. Without the two trump plays he could have ruffed all three of

**Board 3**

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q 9 2  
♥ K 8 5  
♦ A 8 6  
♣ T 9 7 5

♠ A J 5

♥ A J 9

♦ Q J T 3

♣ Q 8 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 8 7 3  
♥ Q T 7 3  
♦ 7 5  
♣ 6 3 2

♠ T 6 4  
♥ 6 4 2  
♦ K 9 4 2  
♣ A K J

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

**Baker OLead 15**

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

When you have made your choice

Sometimes it comes down to just this kind of choice. Do you lead fourth down from ♠ K 8 7 3 or from ♥ Q T 7 3.

The presence of the ♥T bolsters the ♥ suit enough to give it the edge.

The suits could be arranged something like shown at left. With a ♠ lead the presence of the ♠T in dummy allows declarer to make a second ♠ trick, which happens to be declarer's ninth trick.

But when you lead the ♥3 it does not promote a ♥ winner for declarer, and left to his own devices, he cannot establish the ♠ winner.

**Board 4**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 3  
♥ K 6 3  
♦ A 7 4  
♣ T 9 8 7 4

♠ A T

♥ 9 4

♦ K Q J 9 8 3

♣ K Q J

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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

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

6 ♠ by South

**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.