

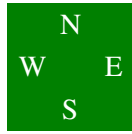
Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 9 7 2
 ♥ T 5
 ♦ Q J T 9 5
 ♣ 9 2

♠ A J 3
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ K 7 4
 ♣ A J 6 5



♠ 8 6 5
 ♥ K Q J 9 7
 ♦ 8 6 2
 ♣ K 3

♠ K Q 4
 ♥ 6 4 2
 ♦ A 3
 ♣ Q T 8 7 4

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

3 NT by South

Baker O'Leary

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

When you have made your choice

Leading an honor sequence is always good strategy against a notrump contract. It is attacking, threatening to set up several winners for you, and there is little risk that you will give away a trick.

North will probably hold up, at least once. If he does, you should continue the suit by next playing the ♥J. This is standard technique; if your first card holds the trick and you want to continue the suit, play the lowest card in the sequence and partner will know that you have all the ones in between.

North only has 7 winners unless he can establish the ♣ suit, and when you win your ♣K you will also be able to win enough ♥s to set the contract.

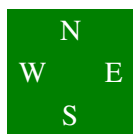
Board 2

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q J 8 4
 ♥ A J 6
 ♦ A K
 ♣ K Q 9 8

♠ 3
 ♥ K 9 7 5 3
 ♦ T 5 2
 ♣ A 7 6 4



♠ K T 9 7 2
 ♥ Q T 8 4
 ♦ Q 9 7
 ♣ 3

♠ A 6 5
 ♥ 2
 ♦ J 8 6 4 3
 ♣ J T 5 2

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

4 ♠ by West

Baker O'Leary Lead 2

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

When you have made your choice

Against confident bidding an attacking lead is probably called for and having the Ace of trumps makes a singleton lead a particularly good choice.

If declarer plays low in dummy partner will win the ♥K and give you an immediate ruff. You play a ♣ back to partner and get another ruff for down 2.

Declarer would be better off to go up with the ♥A at the first trick and try to pull trumps. This would still not be good enough. You win your ♠A, and lead a ♣ to partner's hand. He can then win his ♥K and lead a third ♥ for you to ruff. Down 1.

Board 3

South Deals

None Vul

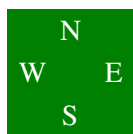
♠ K J 9 4 3
 ♥ 6 5 3
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ T 6 2

♠ 8 7 2

♥ K 8 7

♦ K Q J

♣ A 8 5 4



♠ A 5

♥ J T 4 2

♦ 9 6 5 4 3

♣ J 9

♠ Q T 6

♥ A Q 9

♦ A T 7

♣ K Q 7 3

West

North

East

South

3NT

Pass

Pass

1NT

3NT by West

Baker O'Leary

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

When you have made your choice

The only suit you have worth attacking with is your ♠s. Leading fourth down is standard with this type of holding, but it does have some risk. You are hoping to find partner with the ♠Q or, even better, the ♠A.

This time he comes through with the ♠A and your side wins the first 5 tricks for a 1-trick set.

If you had led any card other than a low ♠ declarer would take 7 tricks.

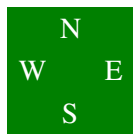
Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A J 5
 ♥ Q T 8 4 3 2
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ 7 3

♠ K Q 7 3
 ♥ K J 9
 ♦ T 8 4
 ♣ 9 5 2



♠ 9 8 2
 ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ A Q J T 4

♠ T 6 4
 ♥ 7
 ♦ J 9 7 6 5 2
 ♣ K 8 6

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

4 ♥ by East

Baker O'Leary Lead 4

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

When you have made your choice

Against a suit contract you want to try to set up a quick winner in the suit.

Notice that with any other lead declarer would have been able to discard a ♠ loser (maybe both of them) on dummy's ♣s.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

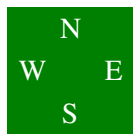
♠ 7 5
 ♥ J T 5 2
 ♦ Q J 5 4
 ♣ K 6 3

♠ K T 4

♥ K Q 9

♦ A T 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 T 5 4

West

North

East

South

1NT

Pass

3NT

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Baker O'Leary 5

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