

Deal 1	♠ A 10 2		
South Deals	♥ AJ 7		
None Vul	♦ J 8 6 2		
	♣ K 6 5		
♠ 8 7 5 4 3	♠ J 6		
♥ Q 10 3	♥ 9 8 5 2		
♦ A 4	♦ 9 7 5		
♣ J 10 3	♣ A Q 9 8		
	♠ K Q 9		
13 7 7 13	♥ K 6 4		
	♦ K Q 10 3		
	♣ 7 4 2		
West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by North			
Lead: ♥ 9			

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

suit when he gets the lead. Note that although this lead finesses partner's ♥ Q, it didn't do anything that declarer wouldn't have done on his own.

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

Deal 2

North Deals
None Vul

♠ K 10 8
♥ 7
♦ A 7 5 3 2
♣ 8 5 3 2

♠ 5
♥ K Q 9 6 3
♦ K 6
♣ K Q 10 9 6

♠ Q J 9 7 6 2
 ♥ A 8 5 4
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 7 4

13
7 7
13

♠ A 4 3
♥ J 10 2
♦ Q J 10 9 8
♣ A J

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♦
3 ♠	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	4 ♠	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠×× by East
Lead: ♠ A

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

When you have made your choice

East'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 West/East 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 his ♥ losers and actually made the contract.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♦ K 9 4 2
♣ A K J

♦ K 8 7 2

♠ K 8 7 3
♥ Q 10 5 2

Q 1073

◆ 75

♣ 6 3 2

11
5 9
15

N
W E
S

♠ Q 9 2
♥ K 8 5
♦ A 8 6
♣ 10 9 7 5

West

North *East*

South

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 3

the ♠ winner.

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

Deal 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J 9 5 4	♦ A J 10	♥ 6	♣ A 5 2
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♦ A 7 4	♦ 6	♦ K Q J 9 8 3	♦ K Q J
♣ 10 9 8 7 4			
		♦ 9 4	
		♦ K Q J 9 8 3	
		♣ K Q J	

W	N
S	E

7	8 7 2
15 16	♦ Q 8 7 5 2
2	♦ 10 5 2
	♣ 6 3

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

6 ♠ by West

Lead: ♥ 3

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.