

**Deal 1**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 5  
♥ A Q 8 5  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ Q J 10 2

13  
9 6  
12

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by North

♠ A Q 10 6 ♥ 7 ♦ K J 9 6 2 ♣ K 6 5	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ A Q 10 8 ♣ 9 8 3
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♠ K J 7 2 ♥ K J 10 3 2 ♦ 7 ♣ A 7 4	
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	♠ K J 7 2 ♥ K J 10 3 2 ♦ 7 ♣ A 7 4
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you will play your last trump.

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

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 ♦

**Deal 2**East Deals  
None Vul

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

**2**  
**13 21**  
**4**

West	North	East	South
6 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
6 NT by East			
Lead: ♥ 6			

♠ 10 5 ♥ J 10 4 2 ♦ 9 6 5 4 3 ♣ J 9	♠ A Q 6 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ A 10 7 ♣ K Q 7 3
 <b>N</b> <b>S</b> <b>E</b> <b>W</b>	

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

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 3**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 8 5 4

♥ 8 6 5 2

♦ K 6 2

♣ 10 2

$$\begin{matrix} & 17 \\ 6 & 2 \\ & 15 \end{matrix}$$

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

W	N
E	S

♠ 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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			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

**Deal 4**West Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 4 3  
 ♥ A 9 8  
 ♦ A J 10 6  
 ♣ Q 10 4

9  
 15 10  
 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ 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  
 1 NT      Pass      3 NT      Pass  
 Pass      Pass  
 3 NT by West  
 Lead: ♥ 4

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

**Deal 5**North Deals  
None Vul

♠ Q 10 6 2  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ Q J 9 6  
 ♣ Q 10 9 3

**13**  
 7 9  
**11**

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9 3  
 ♥ Q J 7 4 3  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ K 8 7 4

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

♠ K J 7 5  
 ♥ A K 6 5  
 ♦ 8 7 4 2  
 ♣ 5

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

4 ♥ by North

Lead: ♥ 9

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.