

**Deal 1**  
South Deals  
None Vul

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

12  
6 9  
13

♠ K J 7 2  
♥ K J 10 3 2  
♦ 7  
♣ A 7 4

♠ 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

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

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 2**

South Deals	♠ 8 7 2
None Vul	♥ K 8 7
	♦ K Q J
	♣ A 8 5 4
♠ K J 9 4 3	♠ 10 5
♥ 6 5 3	♥ J 10 4 2
♦ 8 2	♦ 9 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 6 2	♣ J 9



13  
4 2  
21

West      North      East      South  
Pass      6 NT      Pass      2 NT

Pass

6 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 6

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

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

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

17  
6 2  
15

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

**Deal 4**

South Deals	♠ 9 7 5
None Vul	♥ J 7
	♦ K Q 8
	♣ K J 9 8 2
♠ Q J 10 8	♠ K 6 2
♥ Q 10 5 4 2	♥ K 6 3
♦ 7 3	♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ A 3	♣ 7 6 5

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

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
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**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

<b>♠ 8 4</b> <b>♥ 9 8 2</b> <b>♦ A 10 5 3</b> <b>♣ A J 6 2</b>  <b>11</b> <b>9 7</b> <b>13</b>	<b>♠ K J 7 5</b> <b>♥ A K 6 5</b> <b>♦ 8 7 4 2</b> <b>♣ 5</b>   <b>♠ Q 10 6 2</b> <b>♥ 10</b> <b>♦ Q J 9 6</b> <b>♣ Q 10 9 3</b>  <b>♠ A 9 3</b> <b>♥ Q J 7 4 3</b> <b>♦ K</b> <b>♣ K 8 7 4</b>
<i>West</i> <i>North</i> <i>East</i> <i>South</i>	<i>1 ♠</i> <i>4 ♥</i> <i>Pass</i> <i>4 ♥ by South</i> <i>Lead: ♥ 9</i>

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 South plays ♣s, (preparing to ruff in dummy), you will win and play another trump. Even if South guesses the ♣s correctly he will not be able to make the contract.