

<b>Deal 1</b>	♠ 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**

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

7	♠ Q J 9 7 6 2
13 13	♥ A 8 5 4
7	♦ 4
	♣ 7 4

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

4 ♠×× by South  
Lead: ♠ A

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 his ♥ losers and actually made the contract.

**Deal 3**

North Deals

None Vul

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

<sup>15</sup>  
9 5  
<sub>11</sub>

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 NT

3 NT by North  
Lead: ♥ 3

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



♠ K 8 7 3  
♥ Q 10 7 3  
♦ 7 5  
♣ 6 3 2

♠ 10 6 4  
♥ 6 4 2  
♦ K 9 4 2  
♣ A K J

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 the ♠ winner.

**Deal 4**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 3  
♥ K 6 3  
♦ A 7 4  
♣ 10 9 8 7 4

**16**  
7 2  
**15**

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

♠ 8 7 2  
♥ Q 8 7 5 2  
♦ 10 5 2  
♣ 6 3

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

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 South

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.

**Deal 5**  
South Deals  
None Vul

	♠ 5 3		
	♥ K Q J		
	♦ Q J 10 9 7		
	♣ A 10 4		
♠ K Q J 10 8		♠ 4	
♥ 7 5 2		♥ 10 9 8 4	
♦ A 5		♦ 8 6 3 2	
♣ 9 6 3		♣ K 8 7 2	
	♠ A 9 7 6 2		
10 13 3	♥ A 6 3		
14	♦ K 4		
	♣ Q J 5		
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass
3 NT× by North			
Lead: ♠ 4			

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

When you have made your choice

If partner had not doubled the contract you would probably have started with the ♥T, or possibly the ♣ 2.

But partner DID double, and most good players play that doubling 3 NT is lead-directing as follows: If you have bid a suit, lead it. If doubler has bid a suit, lead it. If neither of you has bid, lead dummy's first bid suit.

So lead a ♠, certainly not a lead you would have made without the double. Partner immediately establishes 4 ♠ winners and he has the ♦ A for an entry.

With any other lead declarer will make the contract.

**Deal 6**  
South Deals  
None Vul

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

12  
2 11  
15

N  
W E  
S

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

♠ K Q 7  
♥ K 10 9 8  
♦ A K 5  
♣ 10 9 2

West      North      East      South  
Pass      2 ♣      Dbl      1 NT  
Pass      4 ♥      Pass      Pass

4 ♥ by South  
Lead: ♣ 8

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

When you have made your choice

If partner had not doubled North's Stayman 2 ♣ bid you would probably have started with one of your Jacks.

But partner DID double, and the double of a conventional bid clearly means that the doubler would like you to lead that suit.

So lead a ♣, and partner will take three ♣ tricks. With any other lead declarer would quickly discard a ♣ from dummy on a high ♦, easily making the contract.

Declarer may still make the contract if he guesses the ♥ Q correctly, but maybe not.