

Deal 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 6
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ 9 7 5
♣ A Q 9 8

13
7 7
13

West North East South
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass
Pass
3 NT by South
Lead: ♥ 9

♠ K Q 9
♥ K 6 4
♦ K Q 10 3
♣ 7 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ 8 7 5 4 3
♥ Q 10 3
♦ A 4
♣ J 10 3

♠ A 10 2
♥ AJ 7
♦ J 8 6 2
♣ K 6 5

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 fineses 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 East 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
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ K 8 7 3
 ♥ Q 10 7 3
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ 6 3 2

11
5 9
15

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 3			

♠ 10 6 4
 ♥ 6 4 2
 ♦ K 9 4 2
 ♣ A K J

♠ Q 9 2
 ♥ K 8 5
 ♦ A 8 6
 ♣ 10 9 7 5

♠ A J 5
 ♥ A J 9
 ♦ Q J 10 3
 ♣ Q 8 4

N
W E
S

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

♠ A 10
 ♥ 9 4
 ♦ K Q J 9 8 3
 ♣ K Q J

♠ 6 3
 ♥ K 6 3
 ♦ A 7 4
 ♣ 10 9 8 7 4

16
 7 2
15

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	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
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 4
 ♥ 10 9 8 4
 ♦ 8 6 3 2
 ♣ K 8 7 2

14
3 10
13

♠ A 9 7 6 2
 ♥ A 6 3
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ Q J 5

♠ K Q J 10 8
 ♥ 7 5 2
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ 9 6 3

N
W E
S

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Dbl	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

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	♠ K Q 7
2 11	♥ K 10 9 8
15	♦ A K 5
	♣ 10 9 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 ♣	Dbl	1 NT
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass			Pass

4 ♥ by South
 Lead: ♣ 8

N	W	E	S
♠ 5 2	♥ Q 7 3	♦ 8 4 2	♣ A K Q 7 4

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.