

**Deal 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

13  
7 7  
13

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 9

♠ K Q 9

♥ K 6 4

♦ K Q 10 3

♣ 7 4 2



♠ A 10 2

♥ A J 7

♦ J 8 6 2

♣ K 6 5

♠ 8 7 5 4 3

♥ Q 10 3

♦ A 4

♣ J 10 3

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

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.

So lead the ♥ 9. You lead a high card so partner won't be tempted to return the

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 East takes the ♦ A he will surely switch to the ♣ J. Down goes declarer.

**Deal 2**

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A 4 3

♥ J 10 2

♦ Q J 10 9 8

♣ A J

7

13 13

7

West

3 ♦

4 ♥

Dbl

4 ♠×× by South

Lead: ♠ A

♠ K 10 8

♥ 7

♦ A 7 5 3 2

♣ 8 5 3 2



♠ Q J 9 7 6 2

♥ A 8 5 4

♦ 4

♣ 7 4

North

3 ♠

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♥

4 ♣

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

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

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



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

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

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	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**

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



♠ K Q J 9 5 4

♥ A J 10

♦ 6

♣ A 5 2

♠ 8 7 2

♥ Q 8 7 5 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 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

♠ 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

14  
3 10  
13

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

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Dbl	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

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  
♥ 4 2  
♦ J 10 9 6 3  
♣ 8 5

12  
2 11  
15

West

Pass  
Pass  
Pass

4 ♥ by South  
Lead: ♣ 8

♠ A 8 6 4  
♥ A J 6 5  
♦ Q 7  
♣ J 6 3



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

North

2 ♣  
4 ♥

East

Dbl  
Pass

South

1 NT  
2 ♥  
Pass

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.