

**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.

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 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

West      North      East      South  
 Pass      3 NT      Pass      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.