Opening leads

Masterclass, 2025

What type of leads do we have

- 3rd, 5th or 3rd and low
- 2nd, 4th
 - Usually combined with attitude
- Attitude







♣ K 5 3

Leads from a sequence

- Top of sequence
- Top of inner sequence
- Coded 10s and 9s sometimes called 3rd, 5th







♠ K 10 9 8 5

General tips for leads

Suit contracts

- Partner's suit
- Singleton
- Sequence
- Unbid suit
- Trumps

No trump contracts

- Partner's suit
- Longest and best suit
- Unbid suit

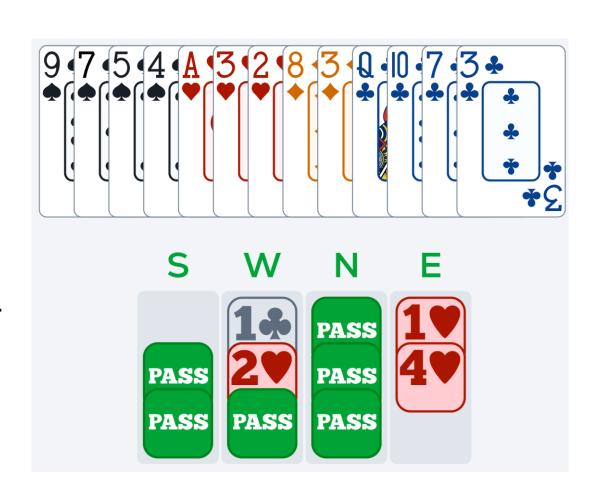
Short-suit leads against suit contracts

- Singleton leads
- Doubleton leads
- If we expect partner to have entries
- Better with longer trumps
- Try to avoid doubletons from an honour



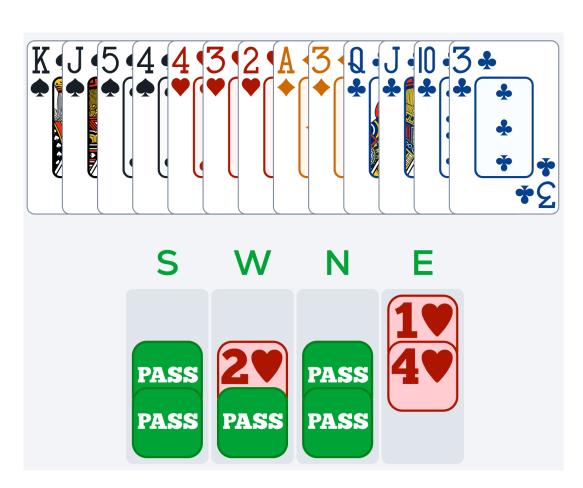
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Passive or active leads?

- The million-dollar question
- Does partner seem to have any points?
- Does the opponent have a long suit?
- Is declarer or dummy the strong hand?
- Do we have a good option?
- Is it imps or matchpoints?
- Usually more aggressive against NT
- Lead through strength



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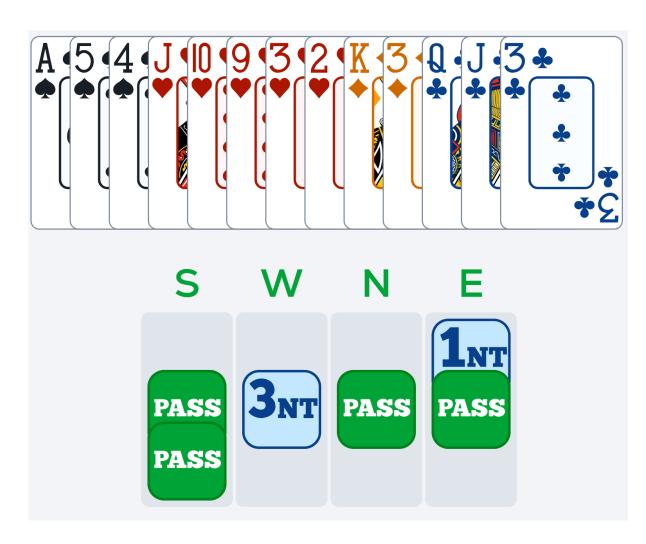
Our own suit or finding partner?

- Another difficult question
- Do we have any entries?
- Can we lead through dummy?
- Did partner bid a suit?



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Summary

- Leads are difficult!
- Have clear agreements, and know opponents' agreements
- Passive leads more likely
 - When partner is weak
 - When declarer is very strong
- Active leads more likely
 - When opponents have long suits
- Lead through strength