

# Opening leads

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# What type of leads do we have

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

♠ 9 8 5 3

♥ K 9 8 5 3

♦ 8 5 3

♣ K 5 3

# Leads from a sequence

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

 K Q J 10

 J 10 5

 K J 10 5

 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

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following cards: ♠8, ♠5, ♠3, ♠2, ♥A, ♥5, ♥2, ♦9, ♣8, ♣5, ♣4, ♣3, ♣2. The cards are grouped by suit: Spades (8, 5, 3, 2), Hearts (A, 5, 2), Diamonds (9), and Clubs (8, 5, 4, 3, 2). Below the hand, the bidding sequence is shown for four players: S, W, N, and E.

S	W	N	E
2♠	1♦	1♠	2♥
PASS	4♥	PASS	PASS

# 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

The diagram shows a bridge hand and a bidding sequence. The hand consists of 13 cards: 9♠, 7♠, 5♠, 4♠, A♥, 3♥, 2♥, 8♦, 3♦, Q♣, 10♣, 7♣, 3♣. The cards are grouped by suit: Spades (9, 7, 5, 4), Hearts (A, 3, 2), Diamonds (8, 3), and Clubs (Q, 10, 7, 3). Below the hand, the bidding sequence is shown for four players: S, W, N, and E.

S	W	N	E
PASS	1♣	PASS	1♥
PASS	2♥	PASS	4♥
PASS	PASS	PASS	

# 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

The diagram shows a hand of 13 cards: K♠, J♠, 5♠, 4♠, 4♥, 3♥, 2♥, A♦, 3♦, Q♣, J♣, 10♣, 3♣. Below the hand, the bidding sequence is shown for four players: S, W, N, and E. S and N have bid 'PASS' twice. W has bid '2♥' and 'PASS'. E has bid '1♥' and '4♥'.

S	W	N	E
PASS	2♥	PASS	1♥
PASS	PASS	PASS	4♥

# 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 itimps or matchpoints?
- Usually more aggressive against NT
- Lead through strength

The diagram shows a bridge deal with the following cards:

- South (S): A♠, K♠, 7♠, 7♥, 4♥, 2♥, 6♦, 3♦, K♣, J♣
- West (W): 7♥, 4♥, 2♥, 6♦, 3♦, K♣, J♣
- North (N): 7♠, 4♠, 2♠
- East (E): 2♣, 3♣, 4♣, 5♣, 6♣, 7♣, 8♣, 9♣, 10♣, J♣, Q♣, K♣, A♣

The bidding options for each player are:

- South (S): PASS, PASS
- West (W): 3NT
- North (N): PASS
- East (E): 1NT, PASS



# 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

Hand: K♠ J♠ 5♠ 4♠ K♥ 3♥ 2♥ K♦ 3♦ 9♣ 7♣ 6♣ 3♣

S W N E

PASS PASS 3NT PASS 2NT PASS

# Our own suit or finding partner?

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

The diagram shows a hand with 13 cards: ♠Q, ♠5, ♠4, ♥J, ♥7, ♥5, ♥3, ♥2, ♦6, ♦3, ♣7, ♣6, ♣3. Below the cards, the bidding sequence is shown for four players: South (S), West (W), North (N), and East (E).

S	W	N	E
PASS	3NT	PASS	1NT
PASS			PASS

# Our own suit or finding partner?

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

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following cards: A♠, 5♠, 4♠, J♥, 10♥, 9♥, 3♥, 2♥, K♦, 3♦, Q♣, J♣, 3♣. Below the hand, four columns represent the players: S, W, N, and E. The bidding actions are as follows:

S	W	N	E
PASS	3NT	PASS	1NT
PASS			PASS

# 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