

Leads versus Suit Contracts



What Suit to Lead:

- Rule 1: Lead partner's bid suit (It keeps partner happy)
- If the opponents bid 3 suits and aren't playing in No Trump, lead the unbid suit
- Same if they bid 2 suits. Lead an <u>unbid suit.</u>

Passive or Active Lead?

- When they've bid weakly or have struggled and stopped in a low-level contract, make a <u>passive</u> lead, such as:
 - A trump, or
 - o A worthless suit, or
 - Top of a sequence
- When they've bid briskly to a game, make an <u>active</u> or aggressive lead, such as:
 - A suit holding that includes the Ace, King or Queen
 - Get you tricks early before they get away
- When they are in a suit slam, lead an ace.
- When they are in 6 NT or 7 NT, make as safe a lead as possible.

When to Lead a Trump:

- If they bid Suit A, then Suit B, and finally settle on Suit C as the trump suit, lead Suit C. The idea is that they are each short in each other's first suit and may be planning some cross-ruffing.
- If they bid Suit A, then 1 NT, then Suit B and Pass, lead a trump.
- If they are sacrificing, that is, bidding at a high level to prevent you from playing in your game, lead a trump.

Which Card to Lead (recommended card in italics):

- 1. Top of touching honors:
 - Ace from A K x x (This lead is a must.)
 - King from KQxx
 - Queen from Q J x x
 - Etc.
- 2. Top of a 3-card sequence

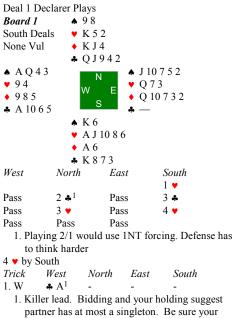
Ex.: Jack from *J* 10 9 x x Ex.: Nine from 9 8 7 x

- 3. A singleton. This may work out well if partner is able to gain the lead to give you a ruff. The weaker you are, the more likely this will work well.
- 4. Bottom Of Something:
 - With a single honor (other than the ace), lead low
 - Ex.: Low from Q 9 5 2
 - Ex.: Low from K 8 4
- 5. Top Of Nothing:
 - Ex.: Top of 9 5 3
 - Ex.: Top of 6 3 2

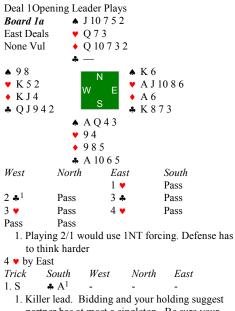
The acronym for this method is BOSTON. (Thx, Barbara Seagram)

- 6. Top of a doubleton:
 - Ex.: Queen from Q 5
 - Ex.: Five from 54
- 7. A trump:
 - (See page one for instances of when to lead a trump)
- 8. Caution: Don't lead an unsupported Ace, that is, an Ace without the King:
 - "The Elvis Play": Lead an unsupported Ace and . . . "The King Lives!"
- 9. Caution: Don't lead away from an Ace against a suit contract
 - From A 8 3 2, don't lead low.

Conclusion to be drawn from #8 and #9: With an unsupported Ace, lead a different suit.



second Club tells partner what to return after ruff.



 Killer lead. Bidding and your holding suggest partner has at most a singleton. Be sure your second Club tells partner what to return after ruff.

