

DEFENSE 3

In general, the lead of a low card shows strength and the lead of a relatively high spot card shows weakness.

If partner leads a low card in one suit, gets in and shifts to a low card (showing strength) in another, partner wants a return in the second suit. If partner shifts to a high card in the second suit (top of nothing perhaps), partner asks for a return in the first suit.

When leading partner's suit that you supported, lead your highest card with three or four small cards headed by the 9 or lower.

The lead of a high spot card denies an honor, partner knows your length. If you have not supported, lead low from 3 or 4 small clubs to deny a doubleton. The lead of a high spot card in partner's unsupported suit shows shortness.

To lead an honor card at a suit contract, only 2 adjacent honors are necessary and the higher honor is led.

		AKJ76		DEALER – 1 SPADE	
		AKQ8		3 HEARTS	
		J			
		K32			
93	PASS				Q1082
10762					93
K10852					PASS
76					A73
					PASS
					QJ85
		54	1 NT		
		J54	3 NT		
		Q964			
		A1094			

5 of diamonds led, partner wins the Ace, returns the 7, your play???

		Q109542			
		QJ5	4 SPADES		
		K85			
		7			
K8	PASS				void
9872					AK43
1096					QJ732
AK62					8543
		AJ763			
		106	DEALER – 1 SPADE		
		A4			
		QJ109			

A of clubs lead, dummy plays the 7, what do you play and why?

		102	PASS		
		6	4 SPADES		
		AQ8753			
		J543			
Q74	2 HEARTS			85	3 HEARTS
KQJ109	PASS			A753	
102				KJ94	
Q109				876	
		AKJ963			
		842	DEALER – 1 SPADE		
		6	3 SPADES		
		AK2			

K of hearts lead, 6, what do you play and why

		8654	DEALER – 1 DIAMOND		
		A	4 SPADES		
		AKQ109			
		654			
J72	PASS			3	
J97642				K105	2 CLUBS
654				873	
8				AKQJ94	
		AKQ109			
		Q83	2 SPADES		
		J2			
		1052			

8 of clubs lead, you win AKQ of clubs, partner pitches a low diamond and low heart, Where can you find one mor trick?

EXTRA CREDIT: It's dangerous to count extra points for short suits or long suits before the bidding starts.

If partner bids your short suit, that reduces, not increases the value of your hand.

When all your honor cards are in your 2 long suits, add 1 extra "purity" point.
 AKJXX KQXX XX XX think of having 14 points. All your honor cards are in your 2 long suits. If partner supports spades or hearts, your hand increases in value.
 If partner doesn't have support for either suit, your hand stays at 14 points.