

STANDARD OPENING LEADS

Suit Holding	v NT	v Suit	Comments
K Q J 4 Q J 10 4 J 10 9 4	K Q J	K Q J	Attacking and safe. "Top of a sequence of 3 honours".
K Q 4 3 2	3	K	With only "two touching honours", against NT lead 4th highest; against a suit make sure of making one trick - lead K
K Q 10 2 Q J 9 2	K Q	K Q	Two touching honours, missing the next, then holding 3rd honour or the 9 "Top of a broken sequence".
A J 10 4 2 K J 10 4 2	J J	Avoid Avoid	"Top of an interior sequence". Too likely to give a trick against a suit contract. Attractive against NT.
A K Q 5 2	A	A	Ace from AKQ, against a suit contract, will, if neither a singleton nor partner's bid suit, virtually guarantee holding the king as well.
A K 5 4 2 A K 4 2	4 2	A A	"Fourth highest" against no trumps (looking to set up the suit while partner retains a card to lead).
A K	Avoid	K	Against a suit K then A shows a doubleton – looking for a ruff
8 2	8	8	Higher of any non-trump doubleton "HiLo from even". If trump suit lead lower (or highest of equals).
A 4 3 2 H 3 2	2 2	A 2	Risky, unless partner has bid the suit, but if so lowest from three or more with an honour. If honour is A lead it or avoid. H=honour
8 7 4	7	7	With 3 small cards Middle Up Down – "MUD".
8 7 5 4	7	7	"Second highest from 4 with no honour". "HiLo from even"