



## What are opening leads for?

- To send a message to partner
- To set up tricks
- To win tricks

## Clues from the auction

1. A suit that partner has bid
2. Opps only bid one suit suggests trump lead
3. DON'T LEAD Suit bid by declarer
4. AVOID Suit bid by dummy

## Suit Holdings

1. AVOID Suits with unsupported Ace
2. Lead top of two or more touching honours from the top of the suit OR from the middle of the suit (Interior Sequence)
3. Consider leading side suit singletons
4. Consider leading top of side suit doubleton when holding three or more trumps
5. Lead King from Ace/King side suit doubleton
6. Lead fourth highest from a four+ card suit with an honour
7. MUD, middle; up; down from poor three-card side suit



## Message for Partner of the Opening Leader

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Message to Partner</u>
HONOUR (AKQJ)	Promises the next lower card Denies the next higher card Ace may be singleton K followed by A shows doubleton asks for "Attitude Signal"; asks for return
LOW ranking card (23456)	At least four cards in this suit, with at least a jack at the top. Asks for the highest card you have; asks for return. OR  Might be a singleton; Look round for substantial holdings in dummy and own hand.
MIDDLE ranking card (From 78910)	TOP OF DOUBLETON OR  MUD Poor suit, nothing better to lead OR  Might be a singleton; Look round for substantial holdings in dummy and own hand.
From Partners Bid Suit	Honour is top card in suit, not necessarily supported by next honour  Non Honour suggests count



## “Standard Leads”

<u>Suit</u> <u>Holding</u>	<u>Vs</u> <u>Suit</u>	<u>Comments</u>
K Q 4 2	K	Two touching honours, against a suit contract. Attacking and safe. Informs partner and promotes the suit.
K Q 10 2 Q J 9 2	K Q	Two touching honours.
A J 10 4 2  K J 10 4 2	J	Promises the 10, may promote the top honour
A K	K	Against suit contract King followed by Ace shows a doubleton looking to trump a third round.
10 2	10	The highest of any doubleton not containing honour (except trumps)



<u>Suit Holding</u>	<u>Vs Suit</u>	<u>Comments</u>
H 2	Avoid	Hold back for chance to make the honour.
A 4 3 2	Avoid	Always gives tricks away. Keep the Ace for declarers kings and queens.
H 3 2	2	Hints at the honour, but misleads on the length of the suit.
8 7 4	7	With three worthless cards, lead the middle card, then the top, then the lowest ("MUD" = Middle, Up, Down). Signals holding of three or five, and implies no interest.
8 7 5 4	7	Four worthless cards. Playing a relatively high card followed by a lower card signals no interest in the suit.