



## 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. Reluctant support from dummy suggests trump lead
3. DON'T LEAD Suit bid by declarer; AVOID Suit bid by dummy

## Suit Holdings

GOOD:	Top of touching sequences of honours (At least 2 against Suit Contracts)
GOOD:	Singleton
OK:	Doubleton, IF reasonable holding in Trumps.
NEUTRAL (Passive):	Top or second card (7-9) from a suit with no honours; Trump Lead
LAST RESORT:	Four or more card suits with Kings, Queens or even Jacks
PROTECT SIDE SUITS (Passive):	Lead Trump



<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.
MIDDLE ranking card (From 78910)	Could be: MUD Poor suit, nothing better to lead
From Partners Bid Suit	Honour is top card in suit, not necessarily supported by next honour  Non Honour suggests count
SINGLETON	No choice as to rank/pip count  Partner should look round for substantial holdings
DOUBLETONS	Doubletons with single honours best avoided.  Otherwise, partner can check for substantial holdings



## “Standard Leads”

<u>Suit</u> <u>Holding</u>	<u>Vs</u> <u>Suit</u>	<u>Comments</u>
K Q J 4 Q J 10 4 J 10 9 4	K Q J	Top of three touching honours. Attacking and safe. Informs partner and promotes the suit.
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, missing the next, holding the third honour or nine.
A J 10 4 2  K J 10 4 2	  Avoid	Top of interior sequence. Too likely to give a trick away against a suit contract.
A K	K	Against suit contract King followed by Ace shows a doubleton looking to trump a third round.



<u>Suit Holding</u>	<u>Vs Suit</u>	<u>Comments</u>
10 2	10	The highest of any doubleton not containing honour (except trumps)
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	8	Four worthless cards. Playing a relatively high card followed by a lower card signals no interest in the suit.