

# Opening Leads

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Give It Your Best Shot

# Opening Leads

## Blind Leads

- \* The opening lead is called “blind” because opening leader has not yet seen dummy
- \* Of “the blind lead”, Terrence Reese said: “blind leads are for deaf players” indicating that the auction should guide the opening lead
- \* Larry Cohen calls the opening lead: “the opening guess” because the auction only tells part of the story

# Opening Leads

## Standard Leads - Basics

Refer to: [www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Conventional-Wisdom/Conventional-Wisdom-2006-05-01.pdf](http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Conventional-Wisdom/Conventional-Wisdom-2006-05-01.pdf)

- \* Your CC shows the standard opening leads
- \* Least likely leads to give away a trick on a blind lead
- \* Lead also implies something more about your holding in that suit
- \* NOTE: you must pre-alert if you lead low from doubletons!

LEADS (circle card led, if not in bold)			
versus Suits		versus Notrump	
<b>x x</b>	x x x x	<b>x x</b>	x x x x
x x x	x x x x x	x x x	x x x x x
A K x	T 9 x	A K J x	A Q J x
K Q x	K J T x	A J T 9	A T 9 x
Q J x	K T 9 x	K Q J x	K Q T 9
J T 9	Q T 9 x	Q J T x	Q T 9 x
K Q T 9		J T 9 x	T 9 x x

  

LENGTH LEADS:			
4th Best	vs SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/>	vs NT
3rd/5th Best	vs SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/>	vs NT
	Attitude vs NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	

  

DEFENSIVE CARDING vs SUITS vs NT			
Standard:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Except	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Upside-Down:			
count	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
FIRST DISCARD			
Lavinthal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Odd/Even	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
OTHER CARDING			
Smith Echo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Trump Suit Pref.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Foster Echo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

  

Primary signal to partner's leads			
Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	Count	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suit preference	<input type="checkbox"/>		

# Opening Leads

## Which Card to Lead?

Refer to: [home.comcast.net/~kwbridge/leads.htm](http://home.comcast.net/~kwbridge/leads.htm)

Refer to: [www.mrbridge.co.uk/library/Opening\\_Leads\\_1.pdf](http://www.mrbridge.co.uk/library/Opening_Leads_1.pdf)

- \* Summarizing the opening leads table:
  - \* A or K from AK combinations as per partnership agreement, K is standard
  - \* Top of an honor sequence: **KQJ** and **QJ9**
  - \* Top of an interior sequence: **KJT9**
  - \* Low from unsupported honors (3rd/4th best)
  - \* Top card of a doubleton

# Opening Leads

Standard, Top of Trash, or MUD?

- \* From 3 or more small cards:
  - \* Standard: Lead low
  - \* Top of Trash: Lead high
  - \* MUD (Middle-Up-Down): Lead 2nd highest
- \* Partnership agreements vary widely

# Opening Leads

## What Suit to Lead?

Refer to: [www.mrbridge.co.uk/library/Opening\\_Leads\\_2.pdf](http://www.mrbridge.co.uk/library/Opening_Leads_2.pdf)

### \* NT Leads:

- \* Longest and Strongest
- \* Partner's
- \* The Unbid
- \* Dummy's 2nd

### \* Suit Leads:

- \* Singleton
- \* Trump
- \* Partner's
- \* Longest and Strongest

### \* Leads to Avoid:

- \* Unsupported Honors except L&S NT & Partner's
- \* Singleton Trump
- \* Declarer's

# Opening Leads

An Example (or two)

\* Auction: (1NT)-P<sub>you</sub>-(3NT)-all pass

\* Your lead from? ♠ AK8 ♥ 854 ♦ 75 ♣ KJ542

\* Auction: (1♥)-P<sub>you</sub>-(4♦!)-P-(4♥)-all pass

\* Your lead from? ♠ Q952 ♥ T73 ♦ K854 ♣ Q6

\* Auction: (1NT)-2♥-(3♠)-P<sub>you</sub>-(4♠)-all pass

\* Your lead from? ♠ 8632 ♥ Q74 ♦ J982 ♣ T3

# Opening Leads

The Best Opening Guess is NOT Always Apparent

\* Auction:

1♣-1♥-3NT-6♣-all pass

\* North:

♠Kxx ♥AJxx ♦x ♣xxxxx

\* Opening lead from:

♠QT9x ♥QTxx ♦Jxxx ♣x

\* South:

♠AJx ♥x ♦QTx ♣AKQJxx

Larry Cohen: ♠T,

Double Dummy: ♥, ♦, or ♣

\* Auction:

1♠-2♣-2♦-3NT-all pass

\* North:

♠KTxxxx ♥x ♦AQJxx ♣x

\* Opening lead from:

♠x ♥xxx ♦Kxxxx ♣Jxxx

\* South:

♠Qx ♥AQJT ♦x ♣AKQxxx

Sheila Dippel: ♠,

Double Dummy: ♥ or ♦