Opening Leads Against Suit Contracts

OUT OF HAND

Make Opening leads face down

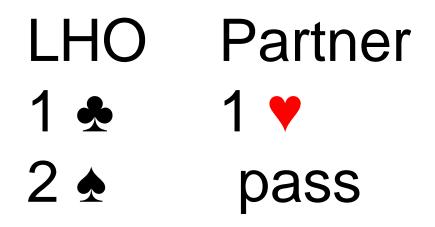
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Choosing The Suit to Lead

- We covered this completely when we discussed opening leads against no trump.
- What are your choices.
 - Lead a suit partner has bid
 - Lead a short suit.
 - Lead trump.

When Would You Not Lead Partner's Suit?

- When you have no cards in that suit.
- When you have a short suit and hope to get a ruff.
- When you have a clear idea that leading another suit will lead to defeating the contract.



RHO You
1 ▲ 2 ♥
4▲ all pass

Partner
▲ 8 6 2
♥ A J 10 5 3
♦ Q 2
▲ K 7 5

Leading a Short Suit

 Do not lead a short suit when your hand is strong and partner's is weak.

 In this case, it is highly unlikely that partner will be able to get the lead.

• Do not lead a short suit if getting a ruff will cause you to lose a natural trump trick.

Leading a Short Suit

- When you lead a short suit, you hope to get a ruff.
- If you lead an unbid short suit, and you don't get a ruff, then you have probably helped the declarer.
- This means that partner must be able to get the lead and lead the suit for you to ruff, before the declarer pulls your trump.

Don't Lead a Short Suit When Your Trump Holding Is:

- J973
- QJ7
- Q752
- KQ42

Lead a Short Suit When Your Trump Holding Is:

A 3 K 4 2 8 4 3 As long as you think you can find a way to put partner in the lead.

Selecting the Card: Your Suit or an Unbid Suit

- Don't lead away from an ace. (A very strong guideline, but not absolute).
- If you can avoid it, don't lead suits the opponents have bid.

Selecting the Card to Lead

- Never lead an ace against a suit contract unless:
 - The ace is a singleton
 - You have the king and you want partner to guide you on how to continue.
 - Partner has bid the suit or you have reason to think that your side has length and strength.
 - The ace is in the only unbid suit against a high contract.
 - You have a 7 or 8-card suit
 - The opponent have bid at the six level.

Leading Trump

- There are times when leading the opponent's trump is the best opening lead.
 - When the opponents are taking a sacrifice and your side has a preponderance of highcard strength.
 - NorthEastSouthWest3 ♥dblepass4 ♠passpass5 ♥passpassdbleall pass

Lead Trump

- When Declarer has bid two suits and you have some strength in the one that is not trump.
 - NorthEastSouthWest1♠pass2♣pass2♥pass2♠pass4♠all pass
- A good time to lead trump, especially if you have values in hearts.

Lead Trump

• When you know partner is weak and you have most of the high cards for your side.



Lead Trump

- When the opponents seem to have a misfit.
 - North East South West
 - 1 ♥ pass 1 ♠ pass
 - 2 ♣ pass 3 ♣ all pass
- Hands like this are often made on a crossruff.

North South East West 1 🔶 1 🔶 pass pass pass 1 💙 1 pass 2 🔺 4 🏚 pass pass

West Hand
7 5 2
♥ Q 10 9
♦ K 10 8 4
♥ K 7 2

Avoid Leading Trump When

- You have a dangerous trump holding like:
 Q 6 3
 - -J42
 - A J
 - K J 4
 - –J732
 - -7542
- You have a singleton trump.
- If you think dummy has a useful long suit.

NorthEastSouthWest1 ♥pass3 ♥pass4 ♥All pass

East Hand
7 5 2
♥ J 9 4
♦ 4
♥ Q 9 7 6 4 2

East Hand ▲ Q J 9 ♥ J 9 4 2 ♦ 4 ♣ A K Q J 9

What Card Do You Play When Partner Leads 4th Best.

- If declarer wins the trick in dummy, you job is to tall partner what you think of the lead.
- If dummy plays a low card, you job is to do what you can to force a high card from declarer.
- If you can win the trick, you job is to win the trick and lead it back.

Partner Leads 4th Best 1





♦ Q J 6

Partner Leads 4th Best 2







Partner Leads 4th Best 3





♦ A 10 6

Returning Partner's Suit.

- Partner has led her own suit. You win the trick or get into the lead at a later point, you should return partner's suit, if you can.
- If you started with 3 cards, return what was you middle card.
- If you started with 4 or more cards, return was was your original 4th best.
- There are some exceptions to these rules.

Returning Partner's Suit 1





♦ A 10 6



Returning Partner's Suit 2





♦ A 10 6

Returning Partner's Suit 3





