

# OPENING LEADS IN SUIT CONTRACTS

## A Few Tips & Suggestions

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### I. Best leads

- A. Honor sequences

AKQ QJ10            *These leads are both safe and attacking.*  
AKJ QJ9  
KQJ J109  
KQ10 J108

- B. Singletons (not trump) will often result in a ruff or two!  
C. Partner's bid suit – especially if it was an overcall  
D. Small doubleton – can lead to a ruff

### II. When to lead trumps

- A. When dummy has taken a preference to declarer's 2<sup>nd</sup> suit

Example:     1♠ (P) 1NT (P)  
                 2♥ All Pass            *Lead a heart!*

- B. If the opponents have taken a sacrifice and your side has a majority of the high cards, trump leads may limit the number of ruffs for the declarer.  
C. Part score auctions where you have xxx or xxxx and dummy can score ruffs

Example:     1♠ (P) 2♠ All Pass

### III. When to lead "passive"

- A. Low level contracts

- B. "Thin" games

Example:     1NT    2♣            1♥    2♥  
                 2♠    3♠            3♣    3♦  
                 4♠                    3♥    4♥

- C. Very weak dummy and very strong declarer

Example:     2♣    2♦            2NT    3♥\*  
                 2NT    3♣            3♠    Pass  
                 3♥    Pass

- D. You are "stuck" with a dangerous holding in three different suits

