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**Page 27, Trump Suit Headaches: Rx for Declarers and Defenders by Dr. James Marsh Sternberg.**

Reviewed by Paul Linxwiler.

♠ KQJ8		
♥ 873		
♦ J52		
♣ K65		
♠ 76432	N	♠ A109
♥ —	W — E	♥ 964
♦ 10987	S	♦ Q643
♣ Q982		♣ A107
	♠ 5	
	♥ AKQJ1052	
	♦ AK	
	♣ J43	

The contract is 4♥, and West leads the ♦10.

Playing South, you win the diamond, and play a high trump, getting the bad news about the 3-0 trump split. You then try to steal a spade trick by leading the 5. If this works, you will make your contract with

- 1 spade
- 7 hearts
- 2 diamonds
- 10 total tricks

But East wins the ♠A and returns a diamond. So, now you're in your hand again.

If you pull trump, you are betting your contract on successfully finessing the ♣K, so you can use it as an entry to the spades. A 50%/50% proposition that doesn't work in this case because the ♣A is behind the ♣K.

The solution is to give up an unnecessary trump trick in exchange for a trump entry to the good spades.

You play a low heart to the ♥7 which East wins. Now the defense takes only three tricks: a spade, a heart and a club. You pitch two club losers go on the good spades which you reach with the ♥8.

**Page 46, "Card Play 101" by Phillip Alder - Consider the order**

♠ AQ10		
♥ 63		
♦ 87542		
♣ AJ10		
♠ KJ32	N	♠ 96
♥ QJ1098	W — E	♥ K754
♦ 9	S	♦ QJ10
♣ 743		♣ 8652
	♠ 8754	
	♥ A2	
	♦ AK63	
	♣ KQ9	

South has opened 1N and partner raised to 3N. West leads the ♥Q.

Declarer starts with 7 winners:

- 1 spade
- 1 heart
- 2 diamonds
- .3 clubs
- 7 total tricks

Declarer cannot let the defense in or they will take four hearts in addition to the card they get in with.

Declarer has two possible ways to get the additional

two tricks needed to make the contract:

1. If the diamonds split 2-2, then he gets five diamond tricks - making two overtricks. This is a 40.7% chance.
2. If West has both the ♠K and ♠J of spades, declarer can pick up two more spade tricks – making the contract. This is a 24% chance. Plus, if the spades also split, he will get four spades- making an overtrick.

The key to success on this hand is to recognize that the diamonds must be tested before the spades. If the diamonds do not split 2-2 (as in this case they do not), declarer is still on lead and can test the spades.

If declarer tries the spades first and a finesse loses, the opponents will win the spade (the losing finesse) and run off four hearts before declarer can test the diamonds.

**Page 47, Parrish the Thought by Adam Parrish - Spotting a singleton**

A singleton is usually a strong lead against suit contracts. Adam Parrish describes three situations where declarer can infer that the opening lead is a singleton.

<p>♠ A J 6 5 ♥ Q 6 ♦ A 9 6 5 ♣ 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ K Q 9 8 7 ♥ K 8 ♦ Q 10 7 3 ♣ A Q</p>	<p><i>South has opened 1♠, North raises to 3♠, and South raises to 4♠. The opening lead is the ♦4.</i></p> <p><b>Tip #1</b> Against a suit contract, if a defender leads a side suit where you have 8+ cards, it's often a singleton. The defender led this card for a reason, and since there are at most five cards out in the suit, it could very well split 1-4, or 1-3 (if only four cards out) whichever the case may be.</p> <p>Avoid the temptation to let the diamond run to the Q. It's likely a singleton.</p>
<p>♠ 5 ♥ A Q J 6 ♦ A 9 6 5 ♣ K Q 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 4 3 ♥ K 10 8 3 ♦ Q 10 7 3 ♣ J 10</p>	<p><i>West has opened 3♠, North makes a takeout double, and South bids 4♥. The opening lead is the ♦4.</i></p> <p><b>Tip #2</b> If a defender preempts and leads another suit, it is likely a singleton. When a defender preempts, he is showing a shapely hand. Making a singleton somewhere a reasonable probability. As the defender has a good suit to lead and doesn't, making it highly likely he led a singleton.</p> <p>Here declarer should rise with the ♦A</p>
<p><b>Tip #3</b> If the opponents have bid and raised a suit, but fail to lead it, the lead is probably a singleton. Similar Tip #2, when a defender has a good suit and does not lead it, there is a reason and that reason is usually that the lead is a singleton.</p>	