

## Leads and Signals Practice Session Boards

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A 8 7 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ A 9 7 6 ♣ A 3 2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10 5 3 2      ♠ J 9 4 ♥ A 9 2      ♥ K J 6 5 4 ♦ 10 3 2      ♦ J 5 ♣ 10 8 5      ♣ Q J 4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K Q 6 ♥ 8 7 ♦ K Q 8 4 ♣ K 9 7 6</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">All Pass</p> <p style="margin: 0;">East leads a <b>fourth highest to an honour ♥5</b>. West plays ♥A (<b>third hand high</b>) and returns his partner's suit, ♥9 (<b>top of 2 remaining, count</b>). The defenders take the first five heart tricks.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">If East leads any other suit declarer will make nine tricks</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	3NT				
West	North	East	South										
	1NT	Pass	3NT										
<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 10 5 3 2 ♥ Q 9 2 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ 10 8 5</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K Q 6      ♠ J 8 7 ♥ 8 7      ♥ A 10 3 ♦ K Q 8 4      ♦ A 9 7 6 ♣ K 9 7 6      ♣ A 3 2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A 9 4 ♥ K J 6 5 4 ♦ J 5 ♣ Q J 4</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">South leads a <b>fourth highest to an honour ♥5</b>. North plays ♥Q (<b>third hand high</b>). Declarer should duck the first round, allowing this to hold the trick (<b>Rule of 7</b>). North returns his partner's suit, ♥9 (<b>top of 2 remaining, count</b>). Declarer wins the ♥A. Declarer needs spade tricks for his contract, but South takes ♠A and cashes two more heart tricks to defeat the contract.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">If South leads any other suit declarer will have time to establish a spade winner and make nine tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	3NT	All Pass	1NT	Pass				
West	North	East	South										
3NT	All Pass	1NT	Pass										
<p style="margin: 0;">♠ Q J 6 ♥ A 8 7 ♦ K Q J 4 ♣ 9 6 5</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A 5 4      ♠ 10 8 3 2 ♥ K Q 5 4 2      ♥ J 3 ♦ 7 5      ♦ 10 8 3 2 ♣ 10 8 4      ♣ Q J 7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K 9 7 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ A 9 6 ♣ A K 3 2</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 3 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">With only two heart honours West should lead a <b>fourth highest to an honour ♥4</b> against no trumps. Declarer should withhold his ♥A (<b>Rule of 7</b>). East plays ♥J (<b>third hand high</b>) and returns his partner's suit. West persists with hearts to force out ♥A and when he gains the lead with ♠A he cashes enough hearts to beat the contract.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Suppose West wrongly leads ♥K. It wins the trick. West can only continue ♥4, and East's ♥J wins. Now East has no heart to return.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT				
West	North	East	South										
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT										
<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 8 5 4 ♥ A K 6 5 4 ♦ 7 5 ♣ Q J 4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ K Q J 3      ♠ 9 7 6 ♥ Q J 10      ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ A J 6      ♦ K Q 9 4 ♣ 7 3 2      ♣ A K 9</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ A 10 2 ♥ 9 3 ♦ 10 8 3 2 ♣ 10 8 6 5</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin: 0;">North should lead a <b>fourth highest to an honour ♥5</b>. It cheaply loses the trick even though South plays ♥9 (<b>third hand high</b>). However South quickly gains the lead with ♠A and returns his remaining heart. North takes four heart tricks to defeat the contract.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">If North wrongly starts with ♥A K he can drive out declarer's heart stopper but he will never regain the lead to cash his winning hearts.</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass		
West	North	East	South										
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass										
3NT	All Pass												

<p>           ♠ A 6 2            ♥ AKJ 6 5 4            ♦ 7 4 3            ♣ 2            ♠ J 9            ♥ 9 2            ♦ AQ 8 6 5 2            ♣ Q 10 4            ♠ 10 8 7 3            ♥ 10 7            ♦ 9            ♣ AJ 9 6 5 3            ♠ KQ 5 4            ♥ Q 8 3            ♦ KJ 10            ♣ K 8 7         </p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>East leads his <b>singleton</b> diamond. Declarer will probably play ♦ 10 from dummy. West wins ♦ Q and because there is no diamond missing higher than ♦ 9 he can tell East has led a singleton or doubleton. He cashes ♦ A, gives East a diamond ruff. ♣ A is the fourth defensive trick.</p>	West	North	East	South		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass							
West	North	East	South																		
	1♥	Pass	1♠																		
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥																		
All Pass																					
<p>           ♠ J 9            ♥ 10 9            ♦ AQ 8 6 5            ♣ Q 10 4 3            ♠ KQ 5 4            ♥ Q 8 3            ♦ KJ 10            ♣ K 8 7            ♠ A 6 2            ♥ AK 7 6 5 4            ♦ 7 4 3            ♣ 2            ♠ 10 8 7 3            ♥ J 2            ♦ 9 2            ♣ AJ 9 6 5         </p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South leads ♦ 9, <b>top of a doubleton</b>. Declarer will probably play ♦ 10 from dummy. North wins ♦ Q and because there is no diamond missing higher than ♦ 9 he can tell South has led a singleton or doubleton. North cashes ♦ A, gives South a diamond ruff and ♣ A is the fourth defensive trick.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass						
West	North	East	South																		
		1♥	Pass																		
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass																		
4♥	All Pass																				
<p>           ♠ 8 7 6 5            ♥ 5 4 3            ♦ QJ 10            ♣ AQ 2            ♠ KQJ 10            ♥ 2            ♦ 5 4 3 2            ♣ 10 7 5 4            ♠ A 9 4 3            ♥ A 9 7 6            ♦ 9            ♣ 9 8 6 3            ♠ 2            ♥ KQJ 10 8            ♦ AK 8 7 6            ♣ KJ         </p>	<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North bid spades but it is natural for West to lead ♠ K and continue with ♠ Q. Declarer ruffs and seems to have eleven tricks, but the 4-1 trump break will give him a problem. He plays ♥ K at trick 3. East wins ♥ A and must persevere with spades, even though he knows declarer will ruff. Declarer ruffs and cashes ♥ Q, but is now in trouble because East has more trumps than he does. The message for the defence is: don't automatically stop playing a suit just because you know declarer is going to ruff.</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																		
			1♥																		
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦																		
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦																		
Pass	4♥	All Pass																			
<p>           ♠ AQ 10 9 6            ♥ 6 5 2            ♦ Q 3            ♣ 8 7 2            ♠ KJ 5 4 2            ♥ KQJ 7            ♦ A 8 2            ♣ 6            ♠ 7            ♥ 10 9 8            ♦ K 7 6 4            ♣ KJ 5 4 3            ♠ 8 3            ♥ A 4 3            ♦ J 10 9 5            ♣ AQ 10 9         </p>	<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With good spades (declarer's first suit), North should be very keen to prevent declarer ruffing spades in dummy. <b>He leads a trump</b>. South wins ♥ A and returns ♥ 3. Declarer wins and may cross to dummy's ♦ K to take a spade finesse. North wins as cheaply as possible and plays his last trump. Deprived of any spade ruffs in dummy declarer will now struggle to make more than five tricks if North keeps leading clubs and South leads spades and diamonds.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass										
West	North	East	South																		
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass																		
2♥	All Pass																				

<p>♠ K972 ♥ A96 ♦ A96 ♣ K93</p> <p>♠ 1083                      ♠ A54 ♥ 753                        ♥ KQ1042 ♦ 10832                     ♦ 75 ♣ 1087                       ♣ QJ4</p> <p>                         ♠ QJ6                          ♥ J8                          ♦ KQJ4                          ♣ A652</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>With three heart honours including the touching ♥K Q East should lead ♥K (<b>top of a broken sequence</b>). Declarer withholds ♥A (<b>Rule of 7</b>) and East continues ♥Q, squashing dummy's ♥J. Declarer ducks again. East leads a third heart to drive out ♥A. At some point East will win with ♠A and take her two heart winners and defeat the contract. If East had wrongly led ♥4 (fourth highest) declarer could win cheaply at trick 1 and have a second heart stopper with gives declarer time to establish two spade tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	3NT				
West	North	East	South										
	1NT	Pass	3NT										
<p>♠ A102 ♥ 632 ♦ 10832 ♣ QJ6</p> <p>♠ QJ6                        ♠ K973 ♥ 87                         ♥ KQ9 ♦ KQJ4                     ♦ A96 ♣ AK95                     ♣ 732</p> <p>                         ♠ 854                          ♥ AJ1054                          ♦ 75                          ♣ 1084</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Declarer has six top tricks and hopes to establish a heart trick and two spade tricks. South leads ♥J, <b>top of an interior sequence</b>. Declarer might win ♥K but North quickly gains the lead with ♠A and returns a heart. South takes four heart tricks to defeat the contract. If South wrongly led a fourth highest ♥5 declarer would win cheaply with ♥9 and have a second stopper (♥K or ♥Q) for protection while driving out the ♠A and taking three spade tricks. (If time permits replay the hand with ♥5 opening lead)</p>	West	North	East	South	3NT	All Pass	1NT	Pass				
West	North	East	South										
3NT	All Pass	1NT	Pass										
<p>♠ KQ532 ♥ Q76 ♦ 63 ♣ 973</p> <p>♠ J6                         ♠ A1098 ♥ 532                       ♥ A4 ♦ KJ72                     ♦ 10984 ♣ K862                     ♣ QJ10</p> <p>                         ♠ 74                          ♥ KJ1098                          ♦ AQ5                          ♣ A54</p>	<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>West doesn't fancy making a dangerous lead away from an unsupported honour or leading dummy's bid suit (spades) so makes <b>a passive trump lead</b>. East wins ♥A and returns ♥4. Declarer wins in dummy and should finesse ♦Q. West wins ♦K and plays his last trump. Deprived of a diamond ruff in dummy declarer now cannot make more than seven tricks.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥	All Pass			2♥
West	North	East	South										
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥										
All Pass			2♥										
<p>♠ 2 ♥ Q53 ♦ 98432 ♣ AQ76</p> <p>♠ AKJ765                    ♠ Q1098 ♥ J6                         ♥ AK4 ♦ 65                         ♥ KQJ ♣ K85                       ♣ 432</p> <p>                         ♠ 43                          ♥ 109872                          ♦ A107                          ♣ J109</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>North leads ♦8, a discouraging high spot card from a bad suit (<b>high for hate</b>). South wins ♦A and knows that if North had a singleton diamond declarer would have six diamonds; hardly likely given that declarer opened in spades. Instead of returning partner's suit South switches to ♣J, top of a sequence and up to dummy's weakness. The defenders take three club tricks. Note that the <b>rule of eleven</b> would tell South that North has not led a fourth highest diamond. 11-8 = 3, but South can see five diamonds higher than ♦8.</p>	West	North	East	South	1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass				
West	North	East	South										
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass										