

# STANDARD OPENING LEADS



These are the recommended leads SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO LEAD FROM THE SUIT. These are not necessarily GOOD leads. They may be the 'least bad' lead.

HOLDING	NT	SUIT	NOTES
<b>3 HONOUR CARD SOLID SEQUENCE (NO GAPS)</b>			
AKQ-76	A	A	<i>The 9 is treated as an honour when the 10 is held.</i>
KQ-J8	K	K	
QJ10-5	Q	Q	
J109-5	J	J	
<b>2 HONOUR CARD SEQUENCE</b>			
AK-982	8	A	<i>Top of honour sequence in suit contracts, aiming to promote one of the honours asap.</i>
QJ764	6	Q	
J10-876	7	J	
<b>3 HONOUR CARD INTERIOR SEQUENCE</b>			
KQ-102	K	K	<i>"Interior" means that the top two honour cards in the sequence are adjacent. There may be a 2-card gap between the second and third honour card</i>
AK-107	A	A	
QJ-95	Q	Q	
<b>3 HONOUR CARD BROKEN SEQUENCE</b>			
A-QJ4	Q	Avoid	<i>"Broken" means that there is a gap between the top and second highest honour card but no other gap. Too likely to concede a trick vs. a suit contract but an attractive attacking lead vs. No Trumps</i>
K-J104	J	Avoid	
K-1094	10	Avoid	
<b>NON-HONOUR-SEQUENCE SUITS HEADED BY AN HONOUR</b>			
Q9843	4	4	<i>4<sup>th</sup> highest</i>
KJ984	8	8*	<i>*Avoid - may promote declarer's Q or 10. Hope partner leads the suit. An unbid suit, or when partner has bid the suit. <b>Never</b> underlead an Ace at Trick One Vs. suit contracts.</i>
K85	5	5	
A85	5	A	
<b>DOUBLETON</b>			
K3	K	K	<i>Top of doubleton – Hi-Lo. Usually avoid leading from an honour doubleton unless partner has bid the suit.</i>
Q8	Q	Q	
94	9	9	
A2	A*	A	<i>*When partner has bid the suit – otherwise avoid. King from AK doubleton only! Play King and then Ace, looking for a ruff.</i>
AK	NO	K	
<b>POOR 3+ CARD SUITS</b>			
9743	7	7	<i>Second highest from a poor suit, playing the highest card on the next round to let partner know that you have not led from a doubleton.</i>
864	6	6	

*Leading an honour card promises the one below and denies holding the one above.*

*Leading an Ace at Trick 1 almost always guarantees holding the King. The only exception is when leading vs. a slam.*

*Try to avoid leading a low card from a suit with no honours. Find another suit to lead from.*