

# Opening Leads



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# Joke



A farmer dropped his truck off at the mechanic's shop and headed home.

On the way, he stopped at the feed store and bought a bucket, a gallon of paint, two chickens and a goose. Outside the store, he struggled with how to carry it all home.

A little old lady came up and asked him, 'Can you tell me how to get to 16 Rose Lane?'

He replied, 'I'd be glad to walk you there, but I can't carry everything I just bought.'

The old lady said, 'Why don't you put the can of paint in the bucket; carry the bucket in one hand; put a chicken under each arm; and carry the goose in your other hand?'

'Why thank you very much,' the farmer said, and proceeded to walk the old gal home.

After a while, he stopped and pointed. 'Let's take the short cut down this alley.'

She replied, 'But you might hold me up against the wall and have your way with me?'

The farmer said, 'Holy smokes lady! I'm carrying a bucket, a gallon of paint, two chickens, and a goose. How could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?'

The old lady replied, 'Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the paint on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens.'

A 'tenace' is a finessable position:

AQ4, AJ3, KJ2, Q105, etc.

# Counteracting Declarer's Strategies



## ➤ Against No Trump:

1) Against him Finessing - if you think you're leading into Declarer's tenaces, make a passive lead.



♠ AQ93 ♥ KJ2 ♦ 654 ♣ KJ3 East

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Unfortunately, these two tactics are contradictory!

2) Against him setting up his long suit(s) – Set up your long suit first(s) (your longest and strongest).



♠ KQ107 ♥ K2 ♦ 854 ♣ J63 East

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Okay, if we're going to lead aggressively, which suit do we attack?

# More on No Trump Leads



- 1) If Partner bids a suit, should you lead it? **Usually!**
- 2) Consider which of you has the entries?
- 3) Consider what suit(s) is partner likely to have?

a)

♠ 93	♥ 542	♦ 9543	♣ 1095	East
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<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

b)

♠ 93	♥ 5432	♦ J10863	♣ 109	West
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<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	1S	Pass
2C	Pass	2H	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This is called a 'pivot suit' because it cuts off Declarer's transportation back to one of the long suits.

# Counteracting Declarer's Strategies



## ➤ Against Suit Contracts:

1) Against him Finessing - if you think you're giving up a trick, make a passive lead (just like in No Trump).

2) Against him setting up his long suit(s) to discard losers – Set up, and take, your winners first (just like in No Trump).

3) Against him ruffing on the short side of trumps, lead a trump (unless you're giving up a trump trick).

♠974 ♥J10 ♦KJ964 ♣K83 East

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
1S	Pass	2S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

# More on Suit Contract Leads



1) Did Partner bid a suit? Is it right to lead it? **Usually!**

2) What suit(s) is partner likely to have?

Contract = 4S

3) Can you give or get a ruff? a)

♠ 932 ♥4 ♦97432 ♣J1095

To tell partner he can get back to you in the lower suit.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

b) ♠ 93 ♥54 ♦A975432 ♣A9 East

But not if your long trumps will be valuable anyway.

c) ♠ J982 ♥3 ♦Q9743 ♣A75 West

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	2D*	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This is called the 'tap suit' because it begins the process of 'tapping' Declarer out of his long trumps.



# Hand #1



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1S	Pass
2S	Pass	3C	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

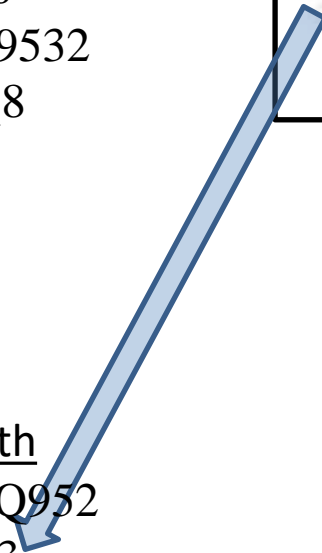
Lead = ???

West  
♠ 73  
♥ **K**Q1054  
♦ J7  
♣ 9743

North  
♠ KJ108  
♥ 96  
♦ K9532  
♣ Q8

East  
♠ 64  
♥ J872  
♦ A1086  
♣ A65

South  
♠ AQ952  
♥ A3  
♦ Q4  
♣ KJ102



# Hand #2



Take some trumps off the dummy!

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1S	Pass
2S	Pass	3C	Pass
3S	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead = ???

West

♠ 7<sup>5</sup>  
♥ K1086  
♦ J109  
♣ K1085

North

♠ K93  
♥ 7  
♦ Q7432  
♣ J763

East

♠ A64  
♥ Q543  
♦ K865  
♣ Q2

South

♠ QJ1082  
♥ AJ92  
♦ A  
♣ A94



# Another Joke

The doctor asks, “Larry, everything looks great. How are you doing mentally and emotionally? Are you at peace with God?”

Larry replies, “God and I are tight. I have poor eyesight, so He’s fixed it so that when I get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom, poof! The light goes on. And when I’m done, poof! The light goes off.”

“Wow, that’s incredible,” the doctor says.

A little later in the day, the doctor calls Larry’s wife.

“Bonnie,” he says, “Larry is doing fine, but I had to call you because I’m in awe of his relationship with God. Is it true that he gets up during the night, and poof, the light goes on in the bathroom, and when he’s done, poof, the light goes off?”

“Oh, dear!” exclaims Bonnie. “He’s peeing in the refrigerator again!”

# Best Leads Statistically



Against a suit contract only.

- A singleton or a long suit that partner may ruff
- Top of a sequence: 72 A9532 ~~K~~QJ3 54
- A suit partner has bid
- A trump ————
- From a king or a queen: K94~~2~~ J842 1032 52
- From nothing (passive lead)
- From a jack or an ace

Against a suit contract only.

BEST

WORST



**Time to Play**