

# Opening Leads

## Active Vs Passive

When the opponents have bid strongly to game (1H – 2C – 2NT – 4H) they obviously have most of the big guns. An aggressive lead is called for. You are trying to find partner with a specific card to take the contract down. If the opponents have limped into game (1H – 2H – 3H – 4H), then the points are more evenly distributed then there is no hurry to get your tricks let declarer find the missing cards and make the mistakes; so make a passive lead.

Leads to Suit Contracts	Leads to No Trump Contracts
<i>Aggressive Leads</i>	
Top of Sequence (need only be two)	Top of Sequence (needs 3 )
<u>K</u> Qxx <u>Q</u> Jxx <u>J</u> 10xx <u>K</u> Qx	<u>A</u> KQx <u>K</u> QJxx <u>Q</u> J10x
	Top of interior sequence (ideally 5 card suit)
	<u>A</u> QJxx <u>K</u> J10xx <u>Q</u> 109xx
Small from honour (4 <sup>th</sup> highest)	Small from honour (4 <sup>th</sup> highest)
Kxxx Qxxx Jxx Kxxx <b>not ever</b> Axxx <b>not ever</b> Kxxxx	Kxxx Qxxx Jxx Axxx
Singleton/doubleton	Trying to find partners suit
Should have A or K of trumps to lead singleton. And not 4+ of trumps	
Doubleton are best if it is partners suit	
<i>Passive Leads</i>	
From 4 small cards <b>MiddleUpDown</b> xxxx	From 3 small cards <b>Top of Nothing</b> xxx
From 3 small cards MUD xxx	From 4 cards TON xxx
Lead trump	
If you have four or more of their trumps lead longest suit so that they must trump a couple of times and you gain trump control	

## Worst Leads

In order of horror

1. Lead away from A
  - only exception is when you have all four aces
  - This is the worst lead not only because you are setting up declarers KQ but also you are lying to your partner.
  - Choose ANOTHER suit
2. Leading an unsupported Ace.
  - Sets up cards for declarer even if partner has bid the suit is no guarantee that he has the K.
  - Choose ANOTHER suit. If partner has overcalled a suit and you don't lead that suit, he knows you have the A in that suit
  - There are a couple of exceptions; a) if you are in a suit slam – lead the ace to put declarer under pressure he has to take all the other tricks and b) if you know that you 9+ cards in the suit then it is OK to lead the ace as you may not get it otherwise.
3. Leading away from tenace.
  - AQX or KJxx
  - If you lead suit you give declarer the missing card as a trick if he leads the suit or partners leads the suit you take his honour.
4. Leading top of partners suit.
  - This will tell partner very little and he will not know if you have a doubleton and can get a rough. And worse it may promote a trick or two for declarer. eg

	Dummy xx	
You Kxx		Partner A JT54
	Declarer Qxx	

- If you lead the K then Declarer will make his Q and discard a loser in dummy thereby giving him two tricks he did not deserve
- If you lead a small one promising an honour partner will know you have either K or Q in either case he should still return the J. If declarer has the K he will make the one trick that he was always going to get.