

Opening Leads

1) **THE MOST DESIRABLE LEADS ARE:**

- Top of a 3+ card sequence (KQJ, QJ10, J109, 1098) [A or K from A-K] (A 2-card sequence is okay, but not perfect). Against notrump, lead top of either 3 in a row or “almost” 3 in a row (such as KQ10 or QJ9). Otherwise, lead 4th best.
- Partner's suit (lead same card that you would in any other suit). We no longer lead high from K75 (for example).

2) **SPOT-CARD LEADS**

When leading a spot-card, lead **fourth best** against notrump. Lead the 2 from K762. Lead the 5 from K7652. Against suits the most popular method is also fourth best (some people use "3rd and 5th"). Lead high from **doubletons**. Leading from **three small** is a matter of personal preference.

3) **LEADING FROM KINGS or ACES:**

It is aggressive to lead from a king, but called for when the auction tells you that your side might need to take tricks quickly. Never lead (or underlead) an ace against a suit contract.

Against notrump, usually lead 4th from your longest and strongest (unless you have 4+ cards and a sequence to lead the top card from). So, against notrump, you often will lead from an ace or king.

4) **WHEN LEADING AN UNBID SUIT:** prefer majors to minors. Listen to the opponents (did they use Stayman, do they have a long suit, etc.?)

5) **SHORT-SUIT LEADS IN SUIT CONTRACTS:**

- Doubletons are overrated leads, especially with one honor.
- Trump control is a big plus. The best holding is Axx.
- Avoid short suit leads when your trump holding doesn't need a ruff.
- Avoid short-suit leads with trump length (or sure trump tricks).

6) **LEADING TRUMP**

- Usually this is a passive lead (you don't want to blow a trick).
- In general, don't lead a singleton trump
- Called for when declarer is playing in his second suit.