

OPENING LEADS

NOTE: If your partner has bid a suit and you are on opening lead, you should lead his suit, no matter what it is, unless you have an excellent reason to lead something else first (e.g. a singleton Ace in another suit). Remember, lead the top card of Partner's suit so he know where it is, and to unblock a clear run of the suit.

YOUR HOLDING	LEAD – SUIT	REASON	LEAD - NT	REASON
A	A	Excellent singleton to lead	No	Wait and see, unless partner has bid that suit
AKx, AKQx, AKJx	A	Watch carefully which cards are played, follow up with the K unless Dummy is now void	A from AKQx	If Declarer didn't bid this suit, WATCH and COUNT the fall of the cards. You may be able to run it.
AK	K	Lead the K first, then A – playing them in this order says you have a doubleton AK	No	Wait and see
KQxx	K	You should win the Q if K loses to the Ace	4 th best - maybe	Not a good suit to lead – you will win one trick
Kx, Kxx	No	Avoid unless partner bid the suit – then lead K from Kx, smallest from longer suit	No	Avoid unless partner bid the suit – then lead K
Axxx	A	Never lead a low card from this holding against a suit contract – lead A or nothing	4 th best card	Standard lead if you choose to lead this suit
Kxxx	No	Avoid, or lead smallest if you have no other safe lead	4 th best	Standard lead if you choose to lead this suit
Qxx	No	Ditto – unless partner bid it, then lead smallest	No	Avoid this suit unless partner bid it – then lead lowest
x	x	Singleton is a good lead against a suit contract	No	Unsuitable for NT
xx	top	Lead top of a low doubleton – only if you don't have a certain trick in the trump suit	No	Unsuitable for NT
xxx, xxxx	low	Lead low from three small cards, 2 nd top card from 4 small cards – e.g. 7 from 9764	No	Unsuitable for NT, unless alternatives are less safe
KQJ, QJT, KQT9, QJ98 etc	Top of sequence	Generally a safe lead, even from a broken sequence	Top of sequence	Generally a safe lead, recommended against NT contract
AQxx, KJxx etc	No	Avoid leading from tenace (AQ, KJ etc)	4 th best	This suit offers opportunities to take tricks, especially if partner has the 10 or an honour
AQJx, KJTx etc	J from KJT	Unsafe to lead from AQJ but J from KJT may be a safe lead	4 th best	Lead from the suit that offers the most tricks. You may lose to the K but the rest of the tricks are probably yours.