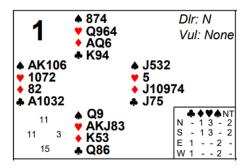
N E S W
p p 1 p
3 p 4 all pass

Play low in second position



West should start with the ♠A and continue with ♠K and another spade.

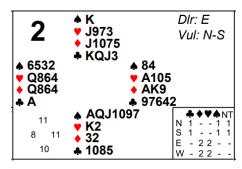
Declarer will trump the third round, draw trumps and (best) cash the three diamonds, ending in the South hand, then lead a small club.

West must play low on that trick. North's &K will win the first round but West will later get two tricks with the &A10.

If West were to play *A (or *10) that would present declarer with two club tricks and the contract.

Board 2 Dealer E Vul NS
E S W N
p 2♠ all pass

Lead short suit against a trump contract 3rd hand play lowest of "equal high" cards



West should look to trump some clubs by leading the singleton *A then a red card to give partner the lead.

East will win with ▼A or ◆K (note those particular cards!) respectively and return a club.

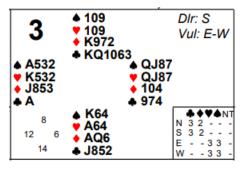
West should note the ▼A denies the ▼K so if he had led a heart before he will know South has the best heart so a diamond should be led next.

But if West's first lead after ♣A was a diamond East's ◆K (when it wins) shows the ◆A so another diamond lead is required.

S W N E

1NT all pass

lead from K rather than A



Other things being equal the preferred lead is the suit **not** headed by the ace.

When the ♥2 is led, South takes East's ♥J (not ♥Q!) with ♥A and leads a club to set up that suit.

West wins and leads ♥K and another heart won by East. (That order is so East is on lead when the last heart is taken).

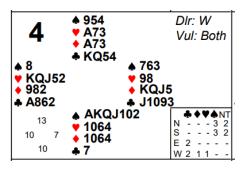
East then leads AQ (AQJ98 is effectively a *solid* sequence as dummy's A109 will be smothered) and East-West get four more spade tricks.

If the opening lead was a spade declarer would still have the •A after losing to the •A and not lose any heart tricks.

W N E S p 1NT p 4♠ all pass

Board 4 Dealer W Vul all

Play low in second position



West leads ♥K and declarer will win, draw trumps, and lead a club.

West must play low on this trick! "But what if declarer's club is a singleton and I lose my *A?" might be asked.

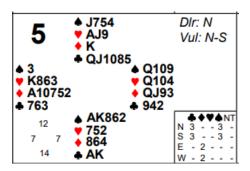
Actually it *is* a singleton and the *A is lost, but to win *A immediately will enable declarer to discard two red suit losers on the *KQ later.

So losing the *A is more than compensated for by winning two diamond tricks.

Note if South did have two clubs and one less red card 4* would be unbeatable.

N E S W 1. p 1. p 2. p 4. all pass

Don't lead away from an ace



West is likely to find the best lead by elimination. Not clubs (bid by opponents) or trumps (not a good choice with a singleton) and of the red suits prefer the "king" suit over the "ace" suit (see Board 3).

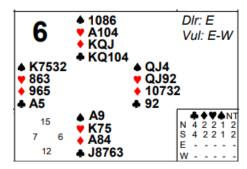
Here the heart lead sets up two tricks for E-W and removes an entry to dummy.

Leading the •A or a black suit allows declarer to discard two heart losers on the clubs after drawing two rounds of trumps and leading *AK.

But if West leads a small diamond away from the ace: disaster! East-West will make only one trick (a trump) and declarer makes 6 •!

E S W N
p 1NT p 3NT
all pass

Third hand play high but lowest of a sequence of "equal-highest" cards



West should start with the longest suit and lead \$3, the fourth card of the suit when there is no sequence. East must play \$J, lowest of card of "equal highest".

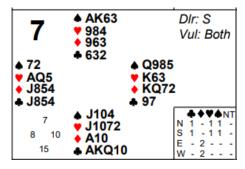
Playing \$J doesn't confirm or deny also holding \$Q\$ but West can "see" \$Q\$ in East's hand when declarer has to use the \$A\$ to win the trick.

After winning with the *A West leads a *small* spade. East wins *Q then leads his last spade giving E-W four spade tricks.

S W N E
1* p 1* p
1NT all pass

Board 7 Dealer S Vul all

Avoid leading opponents bid suit



West should lead •4, the fourth of the longest suit. Although the clubs are similar they should be excluded being the suit declarer has bid.

Declarer has only 6 tricks and the seventh could come from either a finesse in one of the black suits or for the *J to drop within three rounds.

None of these works and East West will make one (at least) black-suit trick along with three in each red suit.

An initial lead of a club would present declarer with their seventh trick.

Board 8 Dealer WVul none

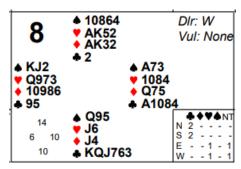
W N E S

p 1 v p 2 ♣

p 2 ◆ p 3 ♣

all pass

Lead suit nobody has bid Play low in second position



As spades is the only unbid suit the \$2 is likely to be West's best lead. A spade continuation gives E-W the first three tricks and there will be two trump tricks to follow.

That is provided East plays the \$4 when the club is led from the table. If East plays the \$A the second trump trick disappears and 3\$ will be made.

East should not even play the \$8 as an astute declarer will then have a chance to avoid a second club loser by promoting the \$7.