## LEADS

### The card to lead from a short suit:

1) Doubletons – lead the top card (eg: A5, KJ, Q7, 83, 32)
2) Three card suit:
   rule 1:  lead top of sequence (eg: KQx, QJx, J10x, 109x, KJ10, K109, Q109 AKx)
   rule 2:  with one or two honours but not touching cards, lead the BOTTOM card
   (eg: K82, Q104, J95, 1062)
   *(exception: Axx (v. suit contract, lead A; versus NT contract lead bottom)*
   rule 3:  three small cards with no honour, lead MIDDLE card, next round play top card.
   (eg: 962 – play the 6 follow by 9 next round)

NB: rule 3 is to distinguish from doubletons, or longer holdings.

### The card to lead from a long suit:
1) Sequence lead
2) 4 or more with an honour, lead 4th highest
3) from 4 rags, recommend to lead 2nd highest

#### *Leads against Suit v. NT*
3 exceptions:
   a) AKxx or longer (v. NT lead 4th highest; v. suit contract lead Ace or King)
   b) KQxx or longer (v. NT lead 4th highest; v. suit contract lead K)
   c) Axxx or longer (v. NT lead 4th highest; v. suit contract lead A – *it's not an attractive lead – if possible find another lead)*

In No-Trump – you aim to set up your long suit.
In Suit Contract – you aim to cash your winners.

#### *Sequence lead tells partner your holding:*
   A queen lead denies the K
   A jack lead denies the Q
   A ten lead denies the J

### Summary:
   - If there's an unbid suit and you don't have an obvious lead, lead that suit.
   - Lead low promises an honour in that suit.
   - Lead high denies an honour in that suit.
   - Lead an honour should at least show an honour above or below.
   - NOT recommended to lead away from Axxx in a suit contract – you may lose to a singleton K.

## Passive & Active Opening Leads:

### *When to make a passive lead:*
1) Against a grand slam (eg: lead a trump from 2 or more rags against suit contract)
   *DO NOT lead a suit containing an honour against 7NT unless it's a sequence.*
2) Against 6NT.
3) Against a suit contract where there is no evidence that dummy has a long suit
   (eg: 1H:2H:4H)

### *When to make an active lead:*
1. Against suit contract when dummy is know to hold a 5-card or longer suit. (eg: collect your tricks as quickly as possible or declarer will throw losers on the long suit unless your holding in the side suit is strong and no prospect of discards for declarer).
2. Against a small slam in a suit (eg: lead an ace)
3. Against pre-emptive opening (eg: lead an ace and see dummy to judge which suit to tackle).
4. Against 3NT when dummy is expected to hold a long running suit.


## Rule of 10

The Rule of 10 is used when a lead is fifth-best. It works as follows:
1. Subtract the opening lead spot card from 10.
2. Also subtract the number of cards in dummy that are higher than the card led.
3. Finally, subtract the number of cards in your hand that are higher than the card led.

The final number equals how many higher cards declarer holds in the suit.
Example:

```
                          Partner
                          ♥ 5

Declarer                                           Dummy
♥ ?                                                ♥ T96

                          You
                          ♥ KJ2
```

Partner leads the ♥ 5. Assuming this is a fifth-best lead, how many hearts are in declarer's hand which are higher?
1. Partner's spot card is the 5, so 10 - 5 = 5.
2. Dummy contains three hearts higher than the ♥ 5, so 5 - 3 = 2.
3. You hold two hearts higher than the ♥ 5, so 2 - 2 = 0.

Thus, declarer does not have any card above the ♥ 5 if partner's lead was fifth-best. The full suit distribution around the table:

```
                          Partner
                          ♥ AQ875

Declarer                                           Dummy
♥ 43                                               ♥ T96

                          You
                          ♥ KJ2
```

## Rule of 11

The Rule of 11 is used when the lead is 4th highest. It works as follows:
1. Subtract the opening lead spot card from 11.
2. Also subtract the number of cards in dummy that are higher than the card led.
3. Finally, subtract the number of cards in your hand that are higher than the card led.

The final number equals how many higher cards declarer holds in the suit.

Example:

```
                        Partner
                        ♠ 4
Declarer                                              Dummy
♠ ?                                                   ♠ T96
                        You
                        ♠ KJ5
```

Partner leads the ♠ 4. Assuming this is a fourth-best lead, how many spades are in declarer's hand which are higher?
1. Partner's spot card is the 4, so 11 - 4 = **7**.
2. Dummy contains three spades higher than the ♠ 4, so 7 - 3 = **4**.
3. You hold three spades higher than the ♠ 4, so 4 - 3 = **1**.

Thus, declarer holds exactly one card higher than the ♠ 4 if partner's lead was fourth-best. The full suit distribution around the table:

```
                        Partner
                        ♠ Q874
Declarer                                              Dummy
♠ A32                                                 ♠ T96
                        You
                        ♠ KJ5
```

## Rule of 12

The Rule of 12 is used when a lead is third-best. It works the same as the Rule of 10, except that the starting number is 12.

Example:

```
                        Partner
                        ♥ 5
Declarer                                              Dummy
♥ ?                                                   ♥ T96
                        You
                        ♥ KJ2
```

Partner leads the ♥ 5. Assuming this is a third-best lead, how many hearts are in declarer's hand which are higher?
1. Partner's spot card is the 5, so 12 - 5 = **7**.
2. Dummy contains three hearts higher than the ♥ 5, so 7 - 3 = **4**.
3. You hold two hearts higher than the ♥ 5, so 4 - 2 = **2**.

Thus, declarer holds two hearts higher than the ♥ 5 if partner's lead was third-best. The full suit distribution around the table:

```
                        Partner
                        ♥ Q854
Declarer                                              Dummy
♥ A73                                                 ♥ T96
                        You
                        ♥ KJ2
```