

### 3: Opening leads against notrump contracts

Some questions to consider that will help you choose a **suit** to lead:

- Has partner bid a suit, especially an overcall?
- What suits have been bid (or implied through Stayman) by declarer or dummy?
- What suits have **not** been bid by declarer and dummy?
- What do you know about the opponents' distribution?
- Based on your strength, and the opponents' strength, what help can you expect from partner?
- Have opponents sailed merrily into game, have they struggled to get there, or have they stopped in a part score?

You are West, and have to make the opening lead. 1NT opening shows 15-17 points, balanced. How much help can you expect from partner, in the way of HCP? What can you tell about the opponents' distributions?

	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Defenders' HCP total</u>
1				1NT	
	p	2NT	all pass		
2				1NT	
	p	3NT	all pass		
3				1NT	
	p	2NT	p	3NT	
	all pass				
4				1NT	
	p	2C	p	2D/H/S	
	p	2NT	all pass		
5				1NT	
	p	2C	p	2D/H/S	
	p	2NT	p	3NT	
6				1NT	
	P	2D (transfer)	p	2H	
	P	2NT	p	p or 3NT	

Choosing an Opening lead, when the bidding hasn't provided any clues  
(First, decide on the suit to lead, then on the card to lead)

Choosing a **suit** to lead vs No Trump (1 = best, 7 is worst of this list)

1. 5+ card suit, if you have enough entries
2. Safe honor sequence (suit headed by 3+ card sequence)
3. Four card suit without A or K
4. Worthless xxx
5. Worthless xx
6. Unsafe honor sequence (suit headed by 2+ card sequence)
7. Four card suit with A or K (especially if RHO has opened the bidding)
8. (Other holdings are generally worse to lead from)

Choosing a **card** to lead vs No Trump

1. Top of a 3+ card honor sequence
2. Top of a 2+ card honor sequence IF (a) next card is one rank apart OR (b) you hold a higher honor OR (c) you hold only 3 cards
3. Low from 3 cards to an honor
4. High from xxx
5. Top of a doubleton except AK
6. 4<sup>th</sup> highest from all other holdings headed by an honor

The above material is based on Richard Pavlicek's website info: [www.rpbridge.net](http://www.rpbridge.net) (this is an excellent website, loaded with useful information and quizzes suitable for all levels)

After 1NT - 3NT, choose your lead:

♠A62	♥A3	♦A42	♣76432
♠AQ94	♥742	♦J95	♣764
♠Q1064	♥A8	♦Q1064	♣954
♠Q104	♥K10432	♦1098	♣108

After 1NT - 4NT - 6NT, choose your lead:

♠Q104	♥K10432	♦1098	♣108
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South has opened 2NT. Choose your lead against 3NT and against 6NT:

♠K874	♥K109	♦J1085	♣108
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