

## WHEN TO LEAD TRUMP – Page 1

Did you hear a “pass or correct” auction? Example: did opener give responder a choice to suits to play, responder was forced to pick one even though he didn’t necessarily have a great fit for either suit. In a situation like that, declarer will usually try to get some ruffs in the dummy or in his hand before drawing trump. If you lead trumps first, it cuts down on his ability to do that. Note: this is true not only for part score contracts, even game-level contracts that are reached by a pass or correct auction might be damaged by a trump lead.

If you think a cross ruff is coming, lead trump. You’ll draw two of his trumps with everyone you lead. With cross ruffs, declarer gets his trump separately.

Did partner pass your takeout double, converting it to penalty? You’d better lead a trump. By converting your takeout double to penalty, partner has chosen this suit as trumps, so help him draw them.

Did the opponents sacrifice against your game? Double them and lead a trump. They usually have little high-card strength and hope to score tricks by ruffing.

### PASSIVE TRUMP LEADS

“When in doubt, lead trump” is an old guideline. Good reason to lead trump, might be no other lead is safe.

Auction: 1 spade, pass, 2 spades, all pass

You’re on lead with: 754 A1082 KJ32 J4, LEAD TRUMP, you might be locating Qx from partner, declarer would have found it anyway.

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Auction: 1 Spade, Pass, 1 NT, Pass, 2 Hearts, Pass, 2 Spades

Your on lead: 7653 KQ106 Q76 J8

Lead trump because of your heart holding

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## WHEN NOT TO LEAD TRUMP – Page 2

Think twice before leading a singleton trump. If partner has length in the trump suit, you might finesse partner's holding, which helps declarer.

When you are long in the trump suit (four or more) you shouldn't lead a trump. Lead your side's long suit instead. It will be hard for declarer to ruff your long suit and draw all of your trump.

If the dummy has a long and strong side suit, you should adopt an "ACTIVE DEFENSE" and try to cash any tricks your side might have. If the declarer gets help drawing trumps first, then he'll next run dummy's long suit, discarding losers from his hand

		A8		2 Clubs		
		854		4 Hearts		
		A942				
		QJ83				
10652					J943	
A973	Pass				6	Pass
KQJ10	Pass				8653	Pass
9	Pass				A542	
		KQ7				
		KQJ102				
		7		Dealer	1 Heart	
		K1076		3 Clubs	Pass	

**YOUR LEAD to 4 HEARTS? What do you lead?**

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Auction: 1 Heart, Pass, 2 Hearts, Pass, 3 Hearts, Pass, 4 Hearts

You hold: KJ72 874 AQ6 QJ8 – WHAT DO YOU LEAD?

Holding the most of the high card strength your side possesses, lacking top of a sequence, LEAD TRUMP

WHAT DO YOU LEAD? – Page 3

		KJ973		<b>Dealer</b>		
		8		1 Spade		
		AJ5		2 Clubs		
		QJ98				
542					AQ108	
K753	Pass				QJ10	
Q1094					K83	Pass
A6					732	Pass
		6				
		A9642				
		762	1 NT			
		K1054	Pass			

YOUR LEAD TO 2 CLUBS? What do you lead?

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		K9865		<b>Dealer</b>	1 Spade	
		KJ106		2 Hearts		
		K83				
		A				
742					AQJ10	
A5	Pass				742	Pass
J1062	Pass				Q74	Pass
KQ83					1097	
		3				
		Q983				
		A95	1 NT			
		J6432	Pass			

YOUR LEAD TO 2 HEARTS? What do you lead?

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