

Kit Teaches Passive or Aggressive Opening Leads

Board 1
D

W You
 ♠ J92
 ♥ KQJ9
 ♦ 953
 ♣ J108

N North

E East

S South

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

4♠ South | NS 0 EW 0

Here, there's no real danger lurking in dummy. Lead the King of Hearts.

Board 2
D

W You
 ♠ J92
 ♥ KQJ9
 ♦ 953
 ♣ J108

N North

E East

S South

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

4♠ South | NS 0 EW 0

Here, dummy is strong and we might need to get our tricks, but our heart holding is still the best chance. This is a lead that combines passive (safe) and aggressive (trick hunting)

1085

KJ94

If you lead from the KJ94 holding, would give up a trick as the opponents can win the queen in either hand.

Q105

KJ94

If you lead from the KJ94 holding, it will be fine—declarer only wins the ace. Leading from KJ94 can give up a trick or it can set up tricks. It's an aggressive lead

Board 3

D

W You

♠ J92

♥ KJ94

♦ 953

♣ J108

N North

S South

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠

E East

4♠ South

NS 0 EW 0

The opponents may be in a close game, and there is no clear need to establish or cash tricks quickly. An aggressive heart lead is not called for.

Board 3

W YOU

♠ J92
♥ KJ94
♦ 953
♣ J108

N North

♠ 1076
♥ 732
♦ A842
♣ A72

S South

♠ AK543
♥ AQ6
♦ K7
♣ K65

West	North	East	South

E East

♠ Q8
♥ 1085
♦ QJ106
♣ Q943

A heart lead would give up the contract. The club Jack should be led, and this will set the contract.

Board 4

W You

♠ J92
♥ KJ94
♦ 953
♣ J108

N North

S South

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

E East

4♠ South

NS 0 EW 0

Here the opponents have extra strength since they were investigating slam. In addition, there may be discards coming from dummy's diamonds. It looks like quick action is called for, so the aggressive heart lead is best.

Board 4

D

N North

♠ Q87

♥ 732

♦ AQJ102

♣ K5

West	North	East	South

W YOU

♠ J92

♥ KJ94

♦ 953

♣ J108

E East

♠ 106

♥ A86

♦ 864

♣ 97432

S South

♠ AK543

♥ Q105

♦ K7

♣ AQ6

On the passive club lead, declarer would take them all.

Board 5

D

N North

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

W You

♠ J92

♥ KJ94

♦ 953

♣ J108

E East

S South

3NT South	NS 0 EW 0
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Dummy's long diamond suit is going to produce tricks for declarer. It may be necessary to establish or cash tricks quickly. This indicates a heart lead.

D
Board 5

N North

West	North	East	South

W YOU
 ♠ J92
 ♥ KJ94
 ♦ 953
 ♣ J108

♠ A8
 ♥ 73
 ♦ AKQ1062
 ♣ K73

E East
 ♠ 10543
 ♥ A862
 ♦ 74
 ♣ A95

S South
 ♠ KQ76
 ♥ Q105
 ♦ J8
 ♣ Q642

The jack of clubs lead would succeed if partner went up ace and shifted to a heart. But this would not be obvious, since he doesn't know who has which major-suit kings.

D
Board 6

N North

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

W You
 ♠ J92
 ♥ KJ94
 ♦ 953
 ♣ J108

E East

S South

2NT South

NS 0 EW 0

You don't have to run 6 tricks quickly to defeat this contract. Neither side figures to have a long suit to run. It figures to be a matter of setting up slow tricks without giving anything away. That indicates a club lead.

Board 6
D

W YOU

♠ J92
♥ KJ94
♦ 953
♣ 108

N North

♠ K1086
♥ A32
♦ Q62
♣ 975

♣ J

S South

♠ AQ3
♥ Q105
♦ 10874
♣ AK3

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

E East

♠ 754
♥ 876
♦ AKJ
♣ Q642

2NT South

NS 0 EW 0

The passive lead here forces declarer to work for their tricks, and they will come up short.

Board 7

D

N North

West

North

East

South

Pass

2♣

Pass

1NT

Pass

3NT

Pass

2♦

Pass

Pass

Pass

W You

♠ J92

♥ KJ94

♦ 953

♣ J108

E East

S South

3NT South

NS 0 EW 0

This one isn't so clear. The hand might be just a matter of not giving declarer his ninth trick.

Board 7

D

N North

♠ K1086

♥ A3

♦ Q1062

♣ Q75

West

North

East

South

W YOU

♠ J92

♥ KJ94

♦ 953

♣ J108

E East

♠ 754

♥ Q10762

♦ A

♣ 9642

S South

♠ AQ3

♥ 85

♦ KJ874

♣ AK3

Or it might be a race to get 5 tricks before declarer gets 9.

Sometimes leads are guesses. Here either could work.

Board 8

D

N North

S South

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	2♦
Pass		Pass	Pass

E East

W You

♠ J92
♥ KJ94
♦ 953
♣ J108

4NT South

NS 0 EW 0

This is a different story. The opponents probably have at least 30 HCP between them for this sequence. They figure to have 10 tricks if you don't act quickly. Partner just could have the ace of hearts. 4 tricks in hearts will be enough to defeat 4NT.

Board 8

D

N North

♠ K1086
♥ 832
♦ AKQJ
♣ Q7

S South

♠ AQ3
♥ Q105
♦ 10874
♣ AK3

West	North	East	South

E East

♠ 754
♥ A76
♦ 62
♣ 96542

W YOU

♠ J92
♥ KJ94
♦ 953
♣ J108

It was lucky to find partner with the ace of hearts, but it was the only chance. You could not defeat this contract with any other 4 HCP partner might hold.

Board 9

D

N North

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	2♦
Pass		Pass	Pass

W You

♠ J92
♥ KJ94
♦ 953
♣ J108

E East

S South

6NT South

NS 0 EW 0

A different goal. Partner can't be expected to have more than a queen, so you aren't taking the first two tricks. Your best bet is to punt and hope declarer doesn't have 12 winners.

Board 9

D

N North

♠ K1086
♥ A32
♦ AKQJ
♣ 97

West	North	East	South

W YOU

♠ J92
♥ KJ94
♦ 953
♣ J108

E East

♠ 754
♥ 1086
♦ 62
♣ Q6542

S South

♠ AQ3
♥ Q75
♦ 10874
♣ AK3

An aggressive heart lead would have given declarer his twelfth trick

Board 10

D

N North

S South

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

E East

W You

♠ Q84
♥ KJ94
♦ 1062
♣ J108

3NT South

NS 0 EW

While you don't know whether or not the opponents have extra strength, your spade holding indicates that the suit is lying favorably for them. Consequently, aggression is in order.

Board 10

D

N North

♠ KJ952
♥ 832
♦ Q8
♣ A64

S South

♠ A7
♥ Q105
♦ KJ73
♣ KQ97

West	North	East	South

E East

♠ 1063
♥ A76
♦ A954
♣ 532

W YOU

♠ Q84
♥ KJ94
♦ 1062
♣ J108

On a passive club lead, declarer would have won and gone after the spade suit. When both black suits behaved, he would have had 9 quick tricks.

Board 11
D

N North

S South

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	2♠
Pass		Pass	Pass

E East

W You

♠ 84
 ♥ KJ94
 ♦ J862
 ♣ J108

E East

3NT South

NS 0 EW 0

You can't know about dummy's spade spots. However, holding two small spades there is good reason to hope that partner has the spades bottled up. Therefore, there is no need for aggression.

Board 11
D

N North

♠ KJ952
 ♥ 83
 ♦ A104
 ♣ Q64

S South

♠ A7
 ♥ AQ62
 ♦ 9753
 ♣ AK7

West	North	East	South

E East

♠ Q1063
 ♥ 1075
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ 9532

W YOU

♠ 84
 ♥ KJ94
 ♦ J862
 ♣ J108

E East

Even with 27 HCP, everything well stopped, and a long suit which could be established, declarer could take only 8 tricks. The aggressive heart lead would have given him his ninth trick.

Board 12
D

N North

S South

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	2♥
Pass		Pass	Pass

E East

W You

♠ Q932
 ♥ 65
 ♦ KJ94
 ♣ J108

S South

3NT South
NS 0 EW 0

The auction tells you that dummy has 4 spades and declarer has 4 hearts. Your holdings in these suits appear to be favorable for declarer, so an aggressive lead is called for.

Board 12
D

N North

♠ KJ104
 ♥ K73
 ♦ 52
 ♣ K542

S South

♠ A65
 ♥ AJ84
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ A973

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	2♥
Pass		Pass	Pass

E East

♠ 87
 ♥ Q1092
 ♦ A10863
 ♣ Q6

W You

♠ Q932
 ♥ 65
 ♦ KJ94
 ♣ J108

S South

♠ A65
 ♥ AJ84
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ A973

3NT South
NS 0 EW 0

On a diamond lead, you take the first 5 diamond tricks to defeat the contract. But look what happens on a club lead.

Board 13

D

N North

S South

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

E East

3NT South
NS 0 EW 0

W You

♠ 32

♥ Q965

♦ KJ94

♣ J108

This time it looks like the major suits lie badly for declarer, so passivity is in order. Leading the jack of clubs appears best.

Board 13

D

N North

♠ KJ104

♥ K73

♦ 532

♣ AK5

S South

♠ A65

♥ AJ84

♦ AQ7

♣ 973

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

E East

♠ Q987

♥ 102

♦ 1086

♣ Q642

3NT South
NS 0 EW 0

W You

♠ 32

♥ Q965

♦ KJ94

♣ J108

On a diamond lead, declarer takes 3 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. On the club lead, he is a trick short, and may go down, even with the combined 29 HCP.

Board 14

D

W You

♠ J3

♥ KJ94

♦ A543

♣ J108

N North

E East

S South

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
Pass		Pass	Pass

4♠ South

NS 0 EW 0

Looking at your weak diamond holding, it is easy to picture declarer knocking out your ace of diamonds and discarding losers on dummy's good diamonds. That indicates an aggressive heart lead is called for to establish tricks quickly. If the lead blows a trick, it might not matter.

Board 14

D

W You

♠ J3

♥ KJ94

♦ A543

♣ J108

N North

E East

S South

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
Pass		Pass	Pass

4♠ South

NS 0 EW 0

On the more passive club lead, declarer can win in hand, cash two top trumps, and go after diamonds. The heart shift will come too late, as declarer will be able to discard one heart loser before partner can ruff in.

Board 15

N North

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
Pass			Pass

W You

♠ J3
♥ KJ94
♦ QJ94
♣ J108

E East

S South

4♠ South

NS 0 EW 0

You have the diamonds bottled up, so there isn't likely to be any urgency to set up tricks. The more passive club lead looks better.

Board 15

N North

♠ A102
♥ 63
♦ A10532
♣ A76

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
Pass			Pass

W You

♠ J3
♥ KJ94
♦ QJ94
♣ J108

E East

♠ Q75
♥ 10872
♦ 86
♣ KQ54

S South

♠ K9864
♥ AQ5
♦ K7
♣ 932

4♠ South

NS 0 EW 0

The heart lead would hand declarer the contract.