

Leads Holding KQxxx

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaDefense/Leads-HoldingKQxxx.pdf>

Against No Trump only, the Ace asks partner to drop an honour or give count. BTW, also against No Trump, the lead of the King asks for attitude to avoid the bath coup and the lead of the Queen asks partner to drop the Jack or give count.

Leading from KQxxx against a No Trump contract is more complicated. It depends on the presence of one or more outside entry and whether one is playing imps or matchpoints.

Please note that it is KQxxx not KQxx. The latter is a risky suit to lead from when you cannot enjoy a fourth and fifth card in the suit.

Side entry

Lead the King from KQxxx with a side entry. Works well when declarer or dummy has AJ doubleton. (I don't have a reference for this but it makes sense. If declarer has AJ frozen, dummy has 9xx and partner has 10xx, you have done well not to have lost two tricks but the suit is blocked and you need an outside entry to enjoy your long suit.) With a sure outside entry, one leads fourth best from KQxx.

Matchpoints or Imps

At matchpoints, one tends to lead the King from KQxxx and at imps fourth best. At imps one is concerned about setting the contract not about reeling in overtricks. At matchpoints, the lead is everything.

Bath Coup

Declarer has AJx and ducks the lead of the King. If the opening leader does not switch, declarer will get an undeserved Jack.

KQ1098

Lead the Queen. It asks partner to drop the Jack or give count.

KQ10xx

Lead the King, top of a broken sequence.

Therefore it is significant that it is KQxxx.

The King asks for attitude.

If partner leads the King, he wants a positive attitude signal from partner if he holds the one above (the Ace) or the one two below (the Jack) otherwise he will switch.