

Preferred Leads against a Notrump Contract

Selecting the proper opening lead against a notrump contract gives you a chance to stick a dagger into the heart of the declarer. Check out these suggested leads; Chapter 17 has details on defending against a notrump contract.

- ✓ The top of a three-card honor sequence: A from AKQx, K from KQJx or KQ10x, Q from QJ10x or QJ9x, and so on
- ✓ The J from suits headed by the J109, J108, AJ10, or KJ10
- ✓ The 10 from suits headed by the 1098, 1097, A109, K109, Q109, AK109, or AQ109
- ✓ Your partner's unsupported suit: top of two cards, low from three or four cards
- ✓ The fourth highest card from your longest suit

Preferred Leads against a Trump Contract

When leading against a trump contract, you have many more options than when leading against a notrump contract, as you see in the following list. Check out Chapter 18 for the scoop on defending against a trump contract.

- ✓ Top of a two- or three-card honor sequence, such as K from the KQJx or the ace from the AKx(x)
- ✓ Your partner's suit
- ✓ Short suit leads: a singleton or top of a doubleton
- ✓ The unbid suit: top of a doubleton, low from three or four cards headed by an honor card, top of three or four small cards
- ✓ The stronger of two unbid suits; however, if one is headed by an ace, lead the other
- ✓ Your longest unbid side suit with four trumps

Points Scored by Contract

<i>Tricks Taken</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
Notrump	40	70	100	130	160	190	220
Spades	30	60	90	120	150	180	210
Hearts	30	60	90	120	150	180	210
Diamonds	20	40	60	80	100	120	140
Clubs	20	40	60	80	100	120	140

(Game = 100 points)