

Opening Leads and Partners Signals – Part 2

Assuming you do not have an honor sequence to lead what should you do? Here are some guidelines for leading in these situations.

Leading from Holdings without an Honor – We lead a top card from nothing to tell our partners we are leading from a holding without an honor.

Leading from an Honor – We lead low from an honor.

When Leading Partner's Suit

Leading from a Doubleton to our Partner's Suit – Lead the high card first.

Leading from three cards – Lead the middle card, then high, then low. This is called MUD (Middle, Up, Down) and only applied when leading to partner's suit when we have three cards. MUD leads help our partner know when declarer is out of the suit and when it might be more appropriate to start attacking another suit. Do not make a MUD lead when you have an honor sequence like **QJx, KQx, even 109x**. Leading the top of the sequence is more important with these holdings.

Length Leads Against Notrump

When we are defending a trump contract we typically want to start with our long suit. A common agreement in these cases is to lead fourth best. This agreement helps our partner plan the defense when they use this information combined with the dummy holding in the suit.