

**General.**

1. Review the bidding. What do you know about the other hands?
2. How strong is partner?
3. How do you imagine the play of hand to go?
4. How do you imagine the defense to go?
5. Eliminate any suits to lead given the bidding and your own hand.
6. Of the remaining suits, what holdings are particularly attractive or unattractive to lead?

**Against a NT contract:**

1. When leading a short suit against NT, prefer a Major to a minor and a trebleton to a doubleton.
2. Grant Baze: against NT, I have made lots of money consistently leading fourth best from my longest and strongest.
3. If you choose to not lead partner's suit, have a very good reason.
4. If partner has bid and doubles NT, she demands a lead of her suit.
5. If the bidding goes 1N – 3N and partner now doubles, what suit does she want led?

**Against a suit contract:**

1. Should you lead a trump?
2. Should you lead a singleton?
3. With long trumps, be careful of shortening declarer and find yourself on lead at the wrong time.
4. A doubleton lead is most attractive when you have a trump control.
5. Lead a singleton only when you have a real expectancy of getting a ruff.

**What about a trump lead?**

1. If you are well endowed in declarer's first suit, consider a trump lead.
2. If one or the other partner rejects NT, consider a trump lead.
3. When the two of you have the preponderance of high card power, lead a trump.
4. A trump lead is most effective if dummy has three (or two) trumps but it can be effective when dummy has more than three.
5. Bob Hamman loves it when the opponents lead trumps. Therefore, it must not be right very often.
6. It is rarely best to lead a singleton trump.
7. Beware of blowing a possible trump trick because of your holding. For example, Jxx or Jx.

**Slams:**

1. Against a small slam, it is often correct to try to set up a trick. That is, be aggressive.
2. Against a slam, if you have decided on one of two suits with equal strength, lead the shorter.
3. Against a small slam, it might be best to be passive (or safe).
4. Against a grand slam, find the safest lead.
5. If partner doubles a slam, what lead does she want?

West	N	S
T92	1S	2C
K75	2D	2H
T65	2NT	3D
KT63	3H	4H

What do you lead? Why?

West	S	N
AT732	1S	2D
82	2S	2NT
T5	3H	
A965		

What do you lead? Why?

West	S	W	N	E
AJ964	1H	1S	2D	2S
A6	P	P	3C	P
7642	3H	P	4H	
93				

What do you lead? Why?

West	S	N
A62	1NT	2C
A9743	2S	4S
Q954		
6		

What do you lead? Why?

West	S	N
T	1H	1S
QJ942	2H	3NT
943	4H	
QJT3		

What do you lead? Why?

West	S	N
K82	1S	2C
95	2S	3S
J873	4S	
Q642		

What do you lead? Why?