



WEEKS 1 & 2

1N

15 to 17

5-CARD MAJOR



SYS ON VS



STAYMAN: Should guarantee at least one major of exactly 4 cards.



TRANSFER: Shows 6+ diamonds



TRANSFER: Shows 5+ hearts.



TRANSFER: Shows 5+ spades.



TRANSFER: Shows 6+ clubs



NO NEED TO GET COMPLICATED 😊



INVITATIONAL

SMOLEN

TEXAS



NEG.

PEN.

OTHER _____

NOTE:

These are simply the minimum suggested agreements for our time together. If your partnership has more advanced methods, please maintain those methods.

SYSTEMS ON AFTER



&



SYSTEMS ON

WEST

NORTH

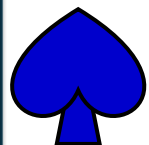
EAST

YOU

1N

X

??



AT96



KQ73



K86



42

I

SYSTEMS ON

WEST

NORTH

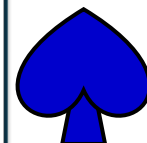
EAST

YOU

1N

2♣

??



AT96



KQ73



K86



42

II

SYSTEMS ON

WEST

NORTH

EAST

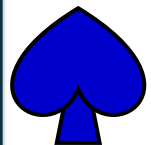
YOU

1N

X

2♣

SYSTEMS STAY THE SAME



AT96



KQ73



K86



42

I

SYSTEMS ON

WEST

NORTH

EAST

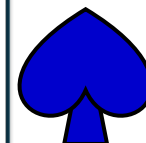
YOU

1N

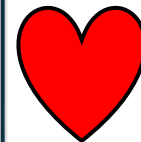
2♣

X

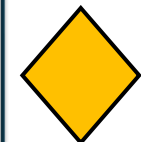
DOUBLE IS STAYMAN, OTHER SYSTEMS STAY THE SAME



AT96



KQ73



K86



42

II

MAKE YOUR CALLS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	X	??

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	2♣	??

Our systems are the same after the double.

Our systems have **one small change** after 2 Club overcalls.

♠ AT94
♥ QT876
♦ 53
♣ 32

1

♠ 954
♥ 2
♦ QJT8764
♣ 92

2

♠ AQT9
♥ K762
♦ 76
♣ Q72

3

♠ AQ987
♥ 762
♦ A76
♣ 72

4

2♦

3♣

X

STAYMAN

2♥

MAKE YOUR CALLS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	2♥	??

We SIGNOFF at the TWO LEVEL

♠ AT974

♥ QT6

♦ 543

♣ 32

5

2♠

5+ SPADES

♠ 954

♥ 2

♦ QJT8764

♣ 92

6

P

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	2♦	??

We GAME FORCE at the THREE LEVEL

♠ AQT9

♥ K762

♦ 76

♣ Q72

7

3♦

THE CUE BID OF OPP'S SUIT

♠ AQ987

♥ 762

♦ A76

♣ 72

8

3♠

EXACTLY 5 SPADES

STAYMAN

MAKE YOUR CALLS

WEST

NORTH

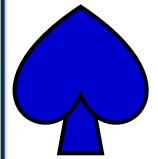
EAST

YOU

1N

2♠

??



97



AJ762

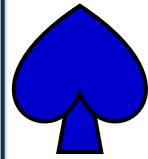


876



AJ2

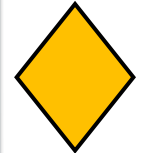
9



K4



AQ52

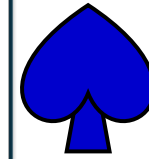


Q986

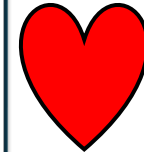


853

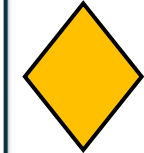
10



72



AT93



A84



9743

11

MAKE YOUR CALLS

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1N

2♠

??

Game forcing with exactly 5H. Gives opener the choice of games.

♠	97
♥	AJ762
♦	876
♣	AJ2

9 3♥

Cue-bid of opponent's suit is game forcing Stayman.

♠	K4
♥	AQ52
♦	Q986
♣	853

10 3♠

Doubles of natural overcalls are "Negative" (Flexible but major focused)

♠	72
♥	AT93
♦	A84
♣	9743

11 X

MAKE YOUR CALLS

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU


1N

2♥

??

 **K974**

 **62**

 **876**


 **AJ72**

12

 **QT9853**

 **2**

 **AK4**

 **853**

13

 **K8762**

 **983**

 **K84**

 **93**

14

MAKE YOUR CALLS

WEST

NORTH

EAST

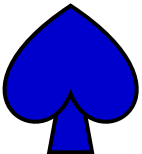



YOU

1N

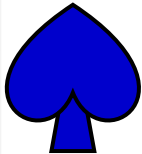

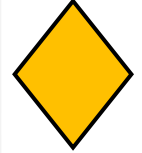

2♥

??

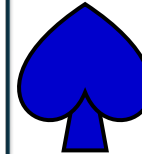

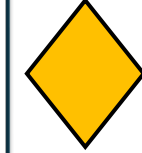

NEGATIVE DOUBLE





	K974
	62
	876
	AJ72
12	X

TEXAS TRANSFER
Always "ON" in comp when jump.





	QT9853
	2
	AK4
	853
13	4♥

NATURAL SIGNOFF





	K8762
	983
	K84
	93
14	2♠

 **853**
 **7**
 **Q98674**
 **Q53**





WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	??

 **84**
 **73**
 **J84**
 **KJ9763**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	2♣	??





 **T4**
 **K94**
 **AQT987**
 **Q5**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	??

 **853**
 **7**
 **Q98674**
 **Q53**





WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	3♣

RULE - We should always transfer when we are improving our contract. We are way better in diamonds than No-Trump here.

 **84**
 **73**
 **J84**
 **KJ9763**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	2♣	2♠

RULE - Remember, Systems on over double and 2 Club overcalls.^a

 **T4**
 **K94**
 **AQT987**
 **Q5**


WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	3N



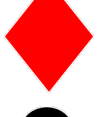

RULE - With game forcing hands (not enough for slam) and long minors, it's almost always correct to play 3NT

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	??


 **AT842** 1
 **AQ72**
 **64**
 **52**



 **KJT84** 2
 **9874**
 **742**
 **2**

 **A2** 3
 **T92**
 **AQT976**
 **72**

 **J95** 4
 **2**
 **J73**
 **QT9852**

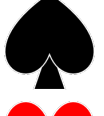



WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
P	1N 2♦	P P	2♣ ??

 **AT842** 5
 **AQ72**
 **64**
 **52**

 **QT84** 6
 **J9763**
 **A**
 **K2**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	??

 **T2** 7
 **2**
 **AJT9642**
 **542**

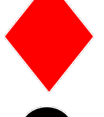

 **AKT4** 8
 **T84**
 **A98**
 **732**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	??

 **AT842** 1
 **AQ72**
 **64** 2♣
 **52**

 **KJT84** 2
 **9874**
 **742**
 **2** 2♥

 **A2** 3
 **T92** 3N
 **AQT976**
 **72**

 **J95** 4
 **2** 2♠
 **J73**
 **QT9852**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	2♣
P	2♦	P	??

 **AT842** 5
 **AQ72**
 **64** 3♥
 **52**

 **QT84** 6
 **J9763**
 **A** 3♠
 **K2**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1N	P	??

 **T2** 7
 **2** 3♣*
 **AJT9642**
 **542** *Agreement based

 **AKT4** 8
 **T84**
 **A98** 3N
 **732**



WEEKS 3 & 4

OPENING LEADS

GUIDELINES FOR THE TOUGHEST POSITION OF CARD PLAY

Standard Leads

IT IS NICE WHEN WE HAVE ONE OF THESE STANDARD LEADS AVAILABLE IN OUR HAND.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE WON'T ALWAYS HAVE SUCH A CLEAR CHOICE AVAILABLE WHEN WE ARE THE OPENING LEADER.

THE CARDS IN BOLD ARE CONSIDERED STANDARD LEADS. (note the slight differences when we are defending vs. suits & no-trump.)

****This is from the old ACBL convention card. A new version is being released that will look very similar in this area.**

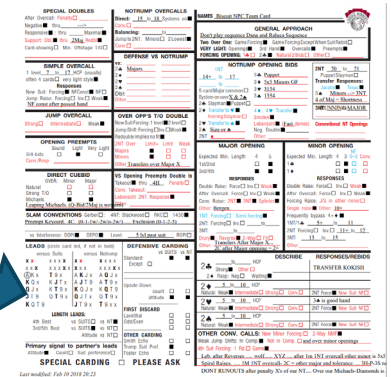
versus Suits

X X	X X X X
X X X	X X X X X
A K x	T 9 x
K Q x	K J T x
Q J x	K T 9 x
J T 9	Q T 9 x
K Q T 9	

versus Notrump

X X	X X X X
X X X	X X X X X
A K J x	A Q J x
A J T 9	A T 9 x
K Q J x	K Q T 9
Q J T x	Q T 9 x
J T 9 x	T 9 x x

The above picture might look familiar. It can be found on every ACBL convention card in the lower left hand corner 😊



PASSIVE LEADS

Passive opening leads are made when we fear giving up tricks to the other side with our lead.


 **Q72**

 **T92**

 **AQ7**

 **K632**

A passive lead comes from a weak suit in your hand.


 *A heart would be passive here*

 **A97**

 **K752**

 **973**

 **962**

 *A club or a diamond would be passive with this hand*

WHEN TO BE PASSIVE

LEVEL

The lower the level, the more likely a passive lead will work.

We almost always lead passively against Slams.

STRENGTH


The stronger declarer's hand is, the more passive you want to be.

AGGRESSIVE LEADS

Aggressive opening leads are made when we are in a rush to get our tricks. We fear they may go away if we don't hurry.

 **Q72**

 **T92**

 **AQ7** *A spade club or diamond would be aggressive here.*

 **K632**

An aggressive lead comes from a suit with strength.

 **A97**

 **K752**

 **973**

 **962**

A spade or a heart would be aggressive with this hand

WHEN TO BE AGGRESSIVE

SIDE SUITS

If either dummy or declarer have shown a strong side suit, an aggressive lead is frequently best.

SHAPE

The more shape the declarer has, the more likely they will be able to pitch losers away quickly. Aggressive leads can help to establish our side's tricks prior to declarer pitching away those losers.

PASSIVE or AGGRESSIVE?

PASSIVE or AGGRESSIVE?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
		2N	P
3N	AP		

1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
2♠	P	3♥	P
4♥	AP		

2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
		3♠	P
4♠	AP		

3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
		1♦	P
1♥	P	2N	P
4N	P	6N	AP

4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
1♥	P	1♠	P
2♠	P	4♠	AP

5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
		1♥	P
1♠	P	4♥	AP

6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
		1♦	P
1♥	P	2N	AP

7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
1♠	P	2♥	P
3♥	P	4♥	AP

8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	LEADER
		1N	AP

9

PASSIVE or AGGRESSIVE?

P

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
	2N	P
3N	AP	

1

A

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
2♠	P	3♥
4♥	AP	

2

A

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
	3♠	P
4♠	AP	

3

P

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
	1♦	P
1♥	P	2N
4N	P	6N
		AP

4

A

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
1♥	P	1♠
2♠	P	4♠
		AP

5

A

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
	1♥	P
1♠	P	4♥
		AP

6

P

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
	1♦	P
1♥	P	2N
		AP

7

A

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
1♠	P	2♥
3♥	P	4♥
		AP

8

P

NORTH	EAST	LEADER
	1N	AP

9

NO – TRUMP LEADS

VS.

SUIT LEADS

NO – TRUMP LEADS

4th BEST FROM YOUR LONGEST & STRONGEST

LEADING AWAY FROM HONORS IS EXPECTED

SET UP YOUR LONG SUITS AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN

WE WANT TO SCORE TRICKS WITH OUR SMALL CARDS (LENGTH)

USUALLY STAY AWAY FROM OPPONENTS' SUITS

UNLESS WE CAN SEE A SOURCE OF TRICKS FOR OUR SIDE

PARTNER'S SUIT IS GOOD, BUT NOT ALWAYS RIGHT.

HOW MANY PTS. DOES PARTNER HAVE? DO THEY HAVE ENTRIES? IS THERE SOMETHING BETTER?

SUIT LEADS

WE USUALLY LEAD PASSIVELY HERE
EXCEPT WHEN THE AUCTION TELLS US THERE MAY BE URGENCY

LEAD SINGLETONS FOR RUFFS
EASY WAY TO GET EXTRA TRICKS AGAINST SUITS.

DON'T TRY TO BE A GENIUS ON THE LEAD
MAKING "NORMAL" LEADS IS A GOOD WAY TO STAY WITH THE FIELD

LEAD UNBID SUITS
WE CAN FREQUENTLY FIND/DEVELOP TRICKS IN THESE SUITS

LEADING TRUMP CAN BE RIGHT FOR MANY REASONS
DON'T LEAD SINGLETON TRUMPS

LEADING STRATEGIES FOR DIFFERENT CONTRACTS

NO – TRUMP LEADS

TYPICALLY AGGRESSIVE LEADS

TRY TO SET UP OUR LENGTH

TRICKS ARE NOT AS LIKELY TO GO AWAY

COMMON NO-TRUMP LEADS

4TH BEST FROM LONGEST
TOP OF NOTHING
TOP OF 3 TOUCHING HONORS

SUIT LEADS

TYPICALLY PASSIVE LEADS

TRY NOT TO GIVE UP TRICKS

TRICKS CAN DISAPPEAR QUICKLY

COMMON SUIT LEADS

SINGLETONS
DOUBLETONS*
TOP OF 2 TOUCHING HONORS

*When leading doubletons vs. suit contracts, we will usually need a trump entry in our hand also.

WHEN DEFENDING VS. A SUIT, DO NOT;

LEAD AWAY FROM ACES

LEAD UNSUPPORTED ACES

LEAD SINGLETON TRUMPS

LEAD THE OPPONENTS' OTHER SUITS

LEAD DOUBLETONS WITHOUT TRUMP ENTRY

“LEADING AWAY FROM AN ACE”

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♠	P
3 ♠	P	4 ♠	AP

EX

♠ 32
♥ A82
♦ A932
♣ Q872

“LEADING AWAY FROM AN ACE”

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♠	P
3 ♠	P	4 ♠	AP



♠	32
♥	A8
♦	A932
♣	Q872

EX

“LEADING AWAY FROM AN ACE”

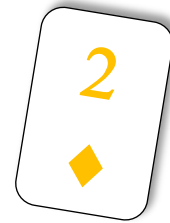
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♠	P
3 ♠	P	4 ♠	AP

♠ 32
♥ A82
♦ A932
♣ Q872

EX

“LEADING AWAY FROM AN ACE”

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♠	P
3 ♠	P	4 ♠	AP



♠	32
♥	A82
♦	A93
♣	Q872

EX

“LEADING AWAY FROM AN ACE”

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♠	P
3 ♠	P	4 ♠	AP

♠ 32
♥ A82
♦ A932
♣ Q872

EX

“LEADING AWAY FROM AN ACE”

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♠	P
3 ♠	P	4 ♠	AP

♠ 32
♥ A82
♦ A932
♣ Q872

EX

LET'S MAKE SOME LEADS

MAKE YOUR LEADS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 1	1 1	1 1
2	P	2	P
3	P	4	AP

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1N	P
3N	AP		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1	P
1N	P	2	AP

Q9865
AT9
T875
5

10

KQ632
A3
9643
75

11

83
KJ94
T862
AK3

12

MAKE YOUR LEADS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	P	2 ♦	P
3 ♥	P	4 ♥	AP

Q9865

5
♣

AT9

T875

5

10

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1N	P
3N	AP		

KQ632

3
♠

A3

9643

75

11

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♥	P
1N	P	2 ♣	AP

83

A
♣

KJ94

T862

AK3

12

MAKE YOUR LEAD

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1N

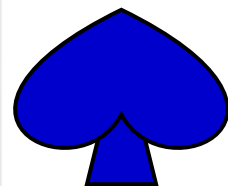
P

2♦

1♥

P

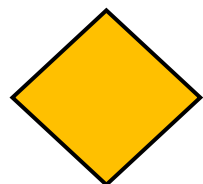
AP



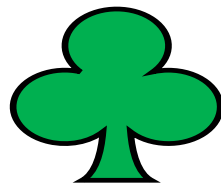
J653



QJT8



K96



A2

13

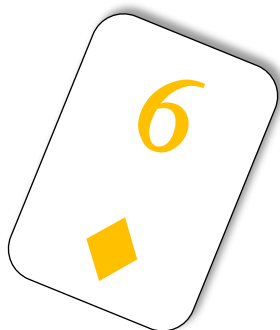
MAKE YOUR LEAD

WE LEAD TRUMP

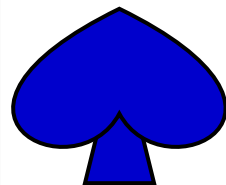
WHEN WE WANT TO LIMIT THE ABILITY OF THE DECLARER TO TRUMP CARDS IN ONE OR BOTH OF THEIR HANDS.

A CLASSIC TRUMP LEAD WILL OCCUR WHEN A PREFERENCE OF 2 SUITS HAS BEEN MADE.

Correct Lead:



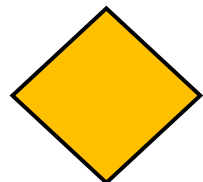
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1♥	P
1N	P	2♦	AP



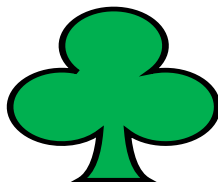
J653



QJT8



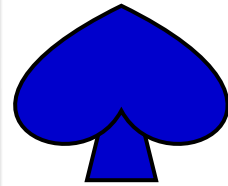
K96



A2

MAKE YOUR LEAD

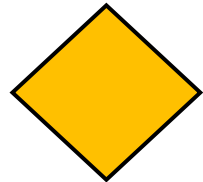
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1♦	P	1♥	1♠
2♣	P	2♥	P
3♥	P	4♥	AP



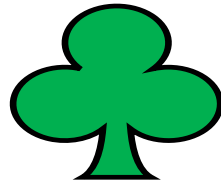
AQ852



92



JT76



K5

MAKE YOUR LEAD

WE LEAD TRUMP

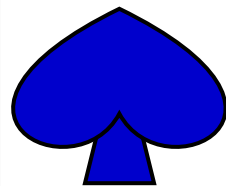
WHEN WE WANT TO AVOID GIVING UP A TRICK WITH OUR OTHER CHOICES

SOMETIMES A TRUMP LEAD WILL BE THE SAFEST WAY TO EXIT YOUR HAND.

Correct Lead:



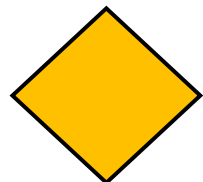
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1 ♦	P	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♣	P	2 ♥	P
3 ♥	P	4 ♥	AP



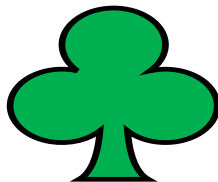
AQ852



92



JT76



K5

MAKE YOUR LEADS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♠	P
2 ♠	AP		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♦	P
1 ♠	P	1N	P
3N	AP		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1 ♦	1 ♥	1N	P
3N	AP		

♠	AT8
♥	QJ92
♦	T542
♣	K9

15

♠	732
♥	Q652
♦	KQJ95
♣	6

16

♠	QT862
♥	Q5
♦	74
♣	K943

17

MAKE YOUR LEADS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♠	P
2 ♠	AP		

AT8

QJ92

T542

K9

15

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1 ♦	P
1 ♠	P	1N	P
3N	AP		

732

Q652

KQJ95

6

16

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1 ♦	1 ♥	1N	P
3N	AP		

QT862

Q5

74

K943

17

MAKE YOUR LEADS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	AP	2N	P
3N			

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1 ♣	P	1 ♠	P
2 ♣	P	2N	P
3N			

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	H		
		1 ♥	P
1N	P	2 ♣	AP

	T97
	83
	J874
	J654

18

	KJ632
	K852
	76
	74

19

	AQ863
	94
	JT76
	K3

20

MAKE YOUR LEADS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	AP	2N	P
3N			

T97

83

J874

J654

18

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1	P	1	P
2	P	2N	P
3N			

KJ632

K852

76

74

19

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1	1
3	3	5	AP

AQ863

94

JT76

K3

20