



# **DEFENSIVE CARD PLAY**

**LEADS - SIGNALS - CONCEPTS**

# MAKE YOUR LEADS

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

**Q9865**

**AT9**

**T875**

**5**

10

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1N	P
3N	AP		

**KQ632**

**A3**

**9643**

**75**

11

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

**83**

**KJ94**

**T862**

**AK3**

12

# MAKE YOUR LEADS

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

**Q9865**

**AT9**

**T875**

**5**

10

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1N	P
3N	AP		

**KQ632**

**A3**

**9643**

**75**

11

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

**83**

**KJ94**

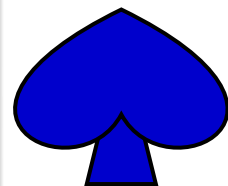
**T862**

**AK3**

12

# MAKE YOUR LEAD

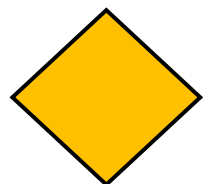
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1♥	P
1N	P	2♦	AP



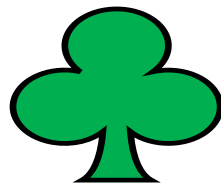
**J653**



**QJT8**



**K96**



**A2**

# MAKE YOUR LEAD

## WE LEAD TRUMP

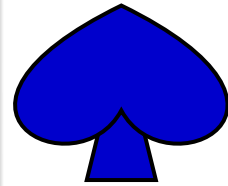
WHEN WE WANT TO LIMIT THE ABILITY  
OF THE DECLARER TO TRUMP CARDS IN  
ONE OR BOTH OF THEIR HANDS.

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

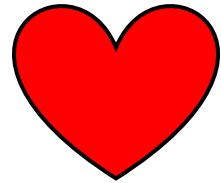
Correct Lead:



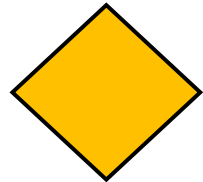
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
		1♥	P
1N	P	2♦	AP



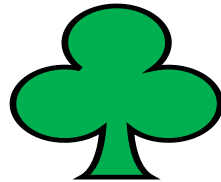
**J653**



**QJT8**



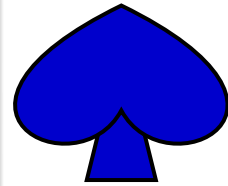
**K96**



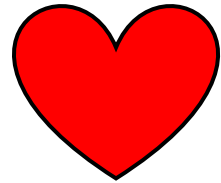
**A2**

# MAKE YOUR LEAD

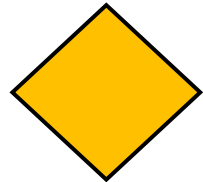
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1♦	P	1♥	1♠
2♣	P	2♥	P
3♥	P	4♥	AP



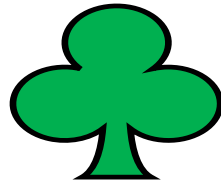
**AQ852**



**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		

**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
		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
		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

# **STANDARD SIGNALS**

**ATTITUDE – COUNT – SUIT PREFERENCE**

**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**

1N   P   2♥   P

2♠   P   2N   P

4♠   AP



♠	<b>QJ654</b>
♥	<b>KQ5</b>
♦	<b>74</b>
♣	<b>J98</b>

♠	<b>82</b>
♥	<b>T432</b>
♦	<b>K985</b>
♣	<b>QT7</b>

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1N	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	2N	P
4♠	AP		



♠	<b>QJ654</b>
♥	<b>KQ5</b>
♦	<b>74</b>
♣	<b>J98</b>

**THE ATTITUDE SIGNAL**  
 WHEN PARTNER LEADS AN HONOR

♠	<b>82</b>
♥	<b>T432</b>
♦	<b>K985</b>
♣	<b>QT</b>

**HOW IT WORKS**  
 LOW = "I DON'T LIKE THIS SUIT"  
 HIGH = "I LIKE THIS SUIT"



WEST

NORTH

EAST

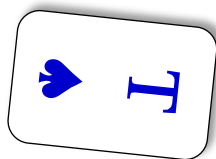
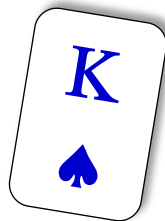
YOU

2♠

P

4♠

AP



♠ 54

♥ Q5

♦ K4

♣ J98

♠ ---

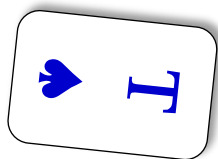
♥ 32

♦ AQ92

♣ T73

**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**

2♠   P   4♠   AP



♠	54
♥	Q5
♦	K4
♣	J98

♠	---
♥	32
♦	AQ92
♣	T73

# THE ATTITUDE SIGNAL

WHEN WE ARE DISCARDING

"I LIKE THIS SUIT"





WEST

NORTH

EAST

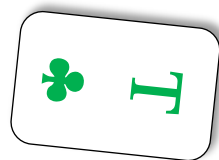
YOU





2N





P

3N

AP



 **654**  
 **8**  
 **974**  
 **KQJ98**

 **82**  
 **432**  
 **K985**  
 **A64**

WEST

NORTH

EAST

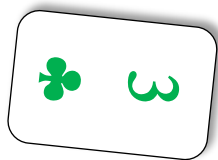
YOU





2N





P

3N

AP

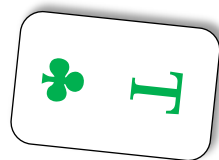






 **654**  
 **8**  
 **974**  
 **KQJ9**

 **82**  
 **432**  
 **K985**  
 **A6**

**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**





2N   P   3N   AP



	<b>654</b>
	<b>8</b>
	<b>974</b>
	<b>KQJ98</b>

## THE COUNT SIGNAL

WHEN DECLARER LEADS  
A SUIT FIRST

	<b>82</b>
	<b>432</b>
	<b>K985</b>
	<b>A64</b>

## HOW IT WORKS

LOW - HIGH = ODD # OF CARDS

HIGH - LOW = EVEN # OF CARDS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	2♥	X	P
4♠	AP		



♠	QJ65
♥	<b>5</b>
♦	KJ74
♣	AQ94

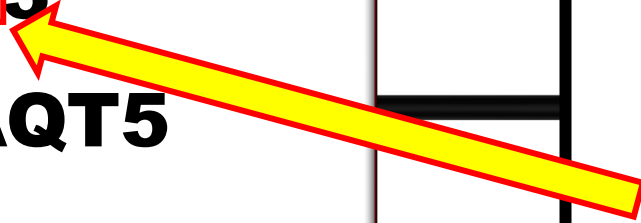
♠	982
♥	<b>83</b>
♦	AQT5
♣	T763

**HOW IT WORKS**

LOW = LOW RANK SUIT PREF.  
HIGH = HIGH RANK SUIT PREF.

**SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNALS**

WHEN BOTH DEFENDERS KNOW THE SUIT BEING LED (CURRENTLY) WILL NOT BE RETURNED



WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	2♥	X	P
4♠	AP		



♠	QJ65
♥	<b>5</b>
♦	KJ74
♣	AQ94

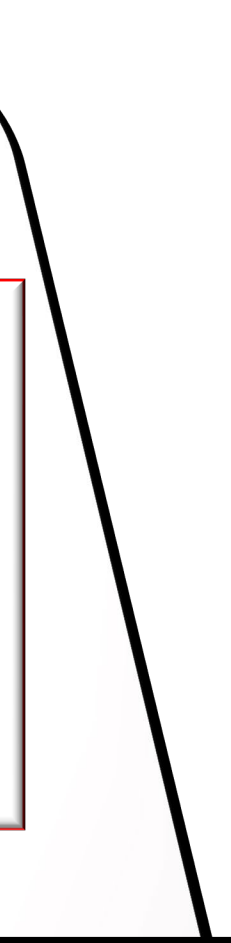
♠	A872
♥	<b>83</b>
♦	9852
♣	KJT

**HOW IT WORKS**

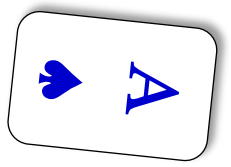
LOW = LOW RANK SUIT PREF.  
HIGH = HIGH RANK SUIT PREF.

**SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNALS**

WHEN BOTH DEFENDERS KNOW THE SUIT BEING LED (CURRENTLY) WILL NOT BE RETURNED



WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	2♥	X	P
4♠	AP		



♠	QJ65
♥	
♦	KJ7
♣	AQ94

♠	842
♥	8
♦	9852
♣	KJT

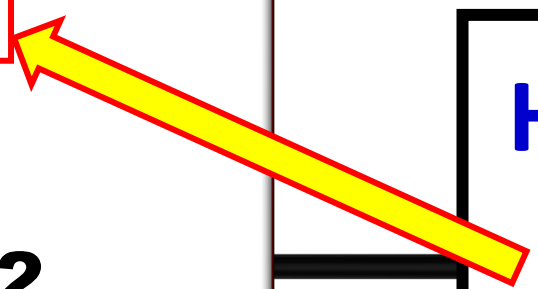
## TRUMP SUIT PREFERENCE

WHEN WE HAVE WORTHLESS TRUMPS, THE ORDER IN WHICH WE PLAY THEM CAN SIGNAL.

## HOW IT WORKS

LOW = LOW RANK SUIT PREF.

HIGH = HIGH RANK SUIT PREF.











# **THE “RULES” FOR DEFENSE**

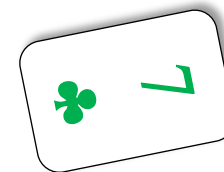
**A COLLECTION OF GUIDELINES FOR COMMON SITUATIONS**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> HAND LOW

RARELY WRONG TO FOLLOW THIS  
BASIC RULE OF BRIDGE.





	---
	---
	---
	<b>KJ94</b>





	---
	---
	---
	<b>A</b> <span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">2</span>







	<b>864</b>
	---
	---
	---





	<b>Q943</b>
	---
	---
	---





## 3<sup>RD</sup> HAND HIGH

**RARELY WRONG TO FOLLOW THIS  
BASIC RULE.\***

**\*When there is an honor in dummy,  
we might NOT play 3<sup>rd</sup> hand high.**



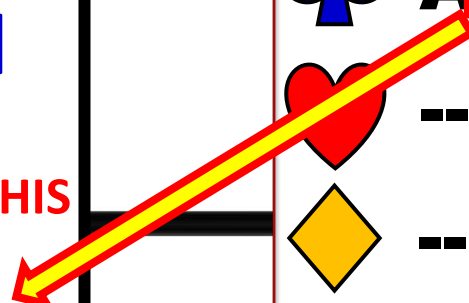
	<b>K64</b>
	---
	---
	---

	<b>AT7</b>
	---
	---
	---

## 3<sup>RD</sup> HAND HIGH

**RARELY WRONG TO FOLLOW THIS  
BASIC RULE.\***

**\*When there is an honor in dummy,  
we might NOT play 3<sup>rd</sup> hand high.**



WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

P

1N

AP

♠ J65

♥ T2

♦ KJ6

♣ 972

## DUMMY ON THE LEFT

USUALLY BEST TO LEAD THROUGH THE STRONGER SUITS IN THE DUMMY

“LEFT HEFT”



♠ A93

♥ Q94

♦ 983

♣ 63

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1N

P

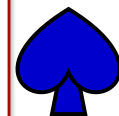
3N

AP

## DUMMY ON THE RIGHT

USUALLY BEST TO LEAD TOWARDS THE WEAKER  
SUITS IN THIS HAND.

“RIGHT LIGHT”



K6



AT72



K9



J54



A92



85



Q87



872

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♣

P

1 ♥

P

2 ♥

P

4 ♥

AP

**MAKE YOUR LEAD**



**KQJ8**



**985**



**J987**



**T4**

**WEST**

**NORTH**

**EAST**

**YOU**

1 ♣

P

1 ♥

P

2 ♥

P

4 ♥

AP

## WHEN WE ARE LEADING

WE ALWAYS LEAD TOP OF TOUCHING HONORS



**KQJ8**



**985**



**J987**



**T4**

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♣

P

1 ♥

P

2 ♥

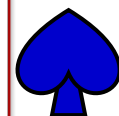
P

4 ♥

AP



MAKE YOUR PLAY



964



AT72



A52



KQ5



KQJ8



985



J987



T4

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♣

P

1 ♥

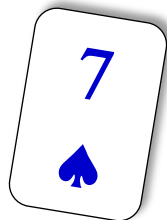
P

2 ♥

P

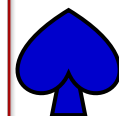
4 ♥

AP



WHEN WE ARE BEING LED TO

WE PLAY THE LOWER OF TOUCHING HONORS



964



AT72



A52



KQ5



KQJ8



985



J987



T4



**WEST**

**NORTH**

**EAST**

**YOU**

1 ♣

P

1 ♥

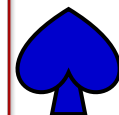
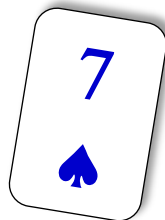
P

1N

P

3N

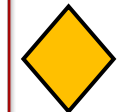
AP



**K64**



**AT72**



**A52**



**QJ5**



**AJ92**



**K5**



**J987**



**T84**

**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**

1♣   P   1♥   P  
1N   P   3N   AP



$$11 - 7 = 4$$

♠ **K64**  
♥ **AT72**  
♦ **A52**  
♣ **QJ5**

## THE RULE OF 11

11 - (value of card led) =  
THE TOTAL # OF CARDS LEFT,  
HIGHER THAN THE LEAD, IN THE  
REMAINING THE 3 HANDS

♠ **AJ92**  
♥ **K5**  
♦ **J987**  
♣ **T84**

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♣

P

1 ♥

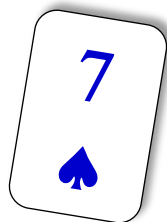
P

1N

P

3N

AP



♠ **K64**  
♥ **AT72**  
♦ **A52**  
♣ **QJ5**

♠ **AJ92**  
♥ **K5**  
♦ **J987**  
♣ **T84**

**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**

1 ♣   P   1 ♥   P  
1N   P   3N   AP

♠ 53  
♥ QJ6  
♦ K64  
♣ AK732

♠ QT87  
♥ 9843  
♦ QT3  
♣ 96

♠ K64  
♥ AT72  
♦ A52  
♣ QJ5

♠ AJ92  
♥ K5  
♦ J987  
♣ T84

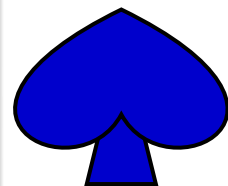
← 4<sup>TH</sup> BEST LEAD

## THE RULE OF 11

WORKS ANYTIME WE SEE A 4<sup>TH</sup> BEST LEAD. 11 – the value of the card led = THE TOTAL # OF CARDS HIGHER THAN THE LEAD IN THE REMAINING 3 HANDS.

# MAKE YOUR LEAD

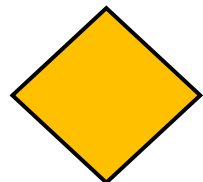
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1♦	P	1♥	P
2♥	P	4♥	AP



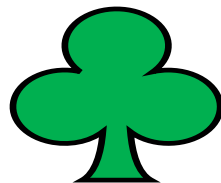
**AK**



**982**



**JT9764**



**T4**

# MAKE YOUR LEAD

## AK DOUBLETON

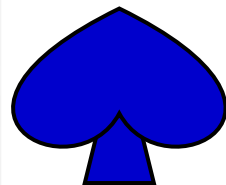
**WE LEAD THE KING FIRST AND THEN THE ACE. THIS ALWAYS SHOWS EXACTLY 2 CARDS IN THE SUIT.**

**THIS IS BECAUSE WE AGREE TO LEAD ACE FROM AK IN ALL OTHER SITUATIONS.**

**Correct Lead:**



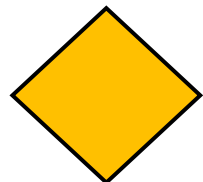
WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
1♦	P	1♥	P
2♥	P	4♥	AP



**AK**



**982**



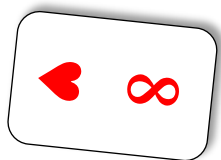
**JT9764**



**T4**

**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**

1 ♣   P   1 ♥   P  
1N   P   3N   AP



♠ **J972**  
♥ **9762**  
♦ **AK2**  
♣ **AQ**

♠ **83**  
♥ **K53**  
♦ **Q987**  
♣ **T842**

**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**

1 ♣   P   1 ♥   P  
1N   P   3N   AP

## PRESENT COUNT

**GIVE COUNT WHEN RETURNING  
PARTNER'S OPENING LEAD.**

**HI - LO = EVEN # PRESENTLY**

**LO - HI = ODD # PRESENTLY**

♠ **J972**  
♥ **976**  
♦ **AK2**  
♣ **AQ**

♠ **83**  
♥ **53**  
♦ **Q987**  
♣ **T842**



**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**

1 ♣	P	1 ♥	P
1N	P	3N	AP



♠	<b>J972</b>
♥	<b>9762</b>
♦	<b>AK2</b>
♣	<b>AQ</b>

# THE ATTITUDE SIGNAL

WHEN PARTNER LEADS &  
DUMMY WINS A HIGH HONOR.

♠	<b>83</b>
♥	<b>K53</b>
♦	<b>Q987</b>
♣	<b>T842</b>

**WEST**   **NORTH**   **EAST**   **YOU**

1 ♣   P   1 ♥   P  
1N   P   3N   AP



♠	<b>J972</b>
♥	<b>9762</b>
♦	<b>AK2</b>
♣	<b>AQ</b>

♠	<b>83</b>
♥	<b>K53</b>
♦	<b>Q987</b>
♣	<b>T842</b>

# THE COUNT SIGNAL

WHEN PARTNER LEADS & WE  
CAN NOT BEAT A JACK OR LOWER  
PLAYED FROM DUMMY.