



Adventures in Bridge

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Opening Leads – Vs. Notrump Contracts Notes

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1. Attacking vs. Passive Opening Leads (“The Defenders’ Advantage”)
 - a. Attacking leads are made when we lead away from honors. Attacking leads hope to set up a trick for our side (or more than one) by knocking out Declarer’s stopper in the suit. Attacking opening leads are often winning bridge!
 - b. Passive opening leads are made to not give up a trick (vs. trying to win a trick.) These leads are much rarer, and primarily used when we think the opponents are going to have a hard time making their contract on their own.
2. Purpose of Opening Leads
 - a. Notrump Contracts (“Long term investment”): To establish lots of tricks for our side. In this case we do not care as much about giving up tricks early in the defense – our goal is to score more tricks later in the hand by setting up our long suit. This is why it is reasonable to lead away from Aces vs. notrump contracts.
3. Choice of 4-card suits (vs. Notrump) – When leading without any other information.
 - a. Qxxx(x) – 1st Choice
 - b. Kxxx(x) – 2nd Choice
 - c. Axxx(x) – 3rd Choice
 - d. Jxxx(x) – Please, please lead something else!
4. Card Combinations – Notrump Contracts: Three touching or nearly touching honors
 - a. AKJx+
 - b. KQTx+
 - c. QJ9x+
 - d. JT8x+
 - e. KJTx+
 - f. KT9x+
 - g. QT9x+
5. Power Leads – Notrump Contracts
 - a. AKJT or AKJxxx
 - b. KQT9