

CARD PLAY FUNDAMENTALS: LESSON TWO
DEFENSE AGAINST NO TRUMP CONTRACTS

Quote of the week: I don't mean to brag but I put together a jigsaw puzzle in one day and the puzzle box said 2-4 years.

In our last lesson we began our study on the defense of the hand and learned that there are two basic stages in choosing the opening lead against a no trump contract.

1. Choosing the suit.
2. Choosing the card.

We also learned that, if your partner has bid a suit during the auction, one should always, always lead his suit. Following, then are the options for your opening lead.

1. Lead your partner's suit. And, when doing so, "tell" your partner how many cards that you hold in that suit. The card to be led is in bold.

T987 Q**7**6 Q7**6**5 **Q**7

2. Lead the top honor card from a suit with length. The card to be led is in bold.

KQJT **Q**JT93 JT9**8**3 T9**8**76

3. Lead from a five card, or longer, "broken" suit. Many players know this as leading "fourth from your longest and strongest". The card to be led is in bold.

AJ7**6**42 KT**8**53 Q97**3**2 AT**4**32

4. Lead from a solid honor sequence without length. The card to be led is in bold.

KQ7 JT**9** **Q**JT T**9**8

Note: When you lead an honor in a suit against a no trump contract, unless it is one that your partner has bid, he will not know how many cards that you hold in that suit but he will always know that you are leading from the top of an honor sequence.

Next lesson: The Rule of Eleven and how it pertains to a lead of a "small" card against a no trump contract as in #3 above.