

# LEADS - MADE SIMPLE

## Per Marty Bergen

- **LONG-SUIT LEADS Which Include the ACE:**

A) **Never Underlead an Ace against a Suit contract at Tick One.**

B) **If you do Not have the King, Lead an Empty Ace Only When:**

You are defending against a slam (except 6NT).

Declarer preempted.

Your ace is singleton.

Your ace is in the only unbid suit against 5C or 5D.

Your side promised length & strength in the suit.

You have a 7- or 8-card suit.

C) **After Trick One, lead the King from AK.** More helpful to Partner.

- **LEAD TRUMPS:**

A) **Direct Raise of 1Major to 2,3,4 – Dummy Likely has Side-Suit Shortage.**

B) **After you See Dummy - If it has a Singleton & No strong side 5-card suit, Lead Trumps without even Thinking.**

- **SHORT-SUIT LEADS:**

A) **Singletons are invariably good choices.**

B) **Doubletons are overrated, especially with one honor.**

C) **The best time to lead a short suit is with trump control (Kxx).**

D) **Avoid a short-suit lead When:**

1) You do not need a ruff; with trump holdings like QJ9 & KJx.

2) You have trump length. With 4 trumps it is usually correct to lead a long suit to force declarer to ruff & shorten his trumps.