

ATTITUDE LEADS (Against both Suit and No Trump Contracts)

Decide what suit to lead, keeping in mind the following rules on which card to lead in that suit.

1. Theory: a) **Aces, Kings, and Queens take tricks (same theory as Losing Trick Count)**, so when you lead a suit for the first time, an Attitude Lead tells Partner whether you do or don't have an Ace or King or Queen in the suit led. Other leads of Aces, Kings, Queens, and Jacks are standard.

b) Lead A from AKQ, AKx, and AKxx. Lead K from AK doubleton.

c) Lead K from KQx, Q from QJx, and J from J10x

2. Lead lowest card from an A, or a K, or a Q, if three or more in the suit. Generally, don't underlead an A against a suit contract. Lead A if you must. Do not lead low from a J or 10. However in NT, lead 4<sup>th</sup> from four or five to an A or K or Q so Partner can use the Rule of 11. Still lead 2<sup>nd</sup> high from four or more in NT if you don't have an Ace or King or Queen in the suit led.

You Hold (Lead)

Q 10 8 5 **2**

You Hold (Lead)

K 7 5 4 **2**

You Hold (Lead)

K 7 **3**

3. If no A or K or Q, lead the second highest, from three or more in the suit. Your Partner can use the Rule of 13 to determine how many cards are higher in the other three hands. Do not lead low from a J. Do not lead top of a sequence.

You Hold (Lead)

J **9** 8 6 2

10 **9** 8 2

9 **8** 7 4

9 **5** 3

Number of higher cards in the other three hands

4

4

5

8 Try to avoid this lead as Partner may not recognize the 5 as second high

4. Leading a J denies a higher card and semi promises the 10. (unless a J singleton or J doubleton)

You Hold (Lead)

**J** 10 6 4

5. Leading a 10 either suggests shortness or you have an A, or a K, or a Q, **plus a touching card (9 or J).** (Yes, the 10 could be a singleton or doubleton.) This is a normal Attitude Lead against NT.

You Hold (Lead)

Q **10** 9 7

You Hold (Lead)

K J **10** 4

You Hold (Lead)

A J **10** 9

6. **Lead high from a doubleton.** Usually a doubleton is only led in Partner's suit.

You Hold (Lead)

**K** 4

(Partner asks himself...is this from KQ, KQx, KQxx, or Kx)

**10** 4

(Partner asks himself...is this from an A, or K, or Q and a touching card, or from two)

**8** 7

(Partner asks himself...is this the second highest in the suit, or from two)

7. When Partner leads...you must beat the Dummy. If you can't, you must encourage or discourage Partner from leading the suit when he is next on lead. Or give count, if that is your partnership understanding.

8. Attitude leads apply: a) **At all times during the defense.** If you lead the 8 from 10, 8, 5...the next time you are leading the suit from 10, 5...lead 10 from the now doubleton.. There are exceptions where you can see the Dummy and need to lead J from J94 if the Q is on the Board, or late in the hand and you can figure out the spots.  
b) Both to suit and no trump contract defense.

Attitude Leads use the **"Touching 10" rule** where the lead of a 10 implies either shortness or a touching 9 or J plus a higher card. (That means: zero, one, or two higher than the 10). **Look at the Board and you hand.** Don't play "Coded 9s & 10s", which shows zero or two cards higher. "Coded 9s & 10s" present an Attitude Lead problem holding J986. The 9 cannot show 2<sup>nd</sup> high and also show zero or two higher.  
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