

Leads and Signals

Opening Leads

-Top of a sequence headed by an honour

KQJ32

-4th highest from a suit with at least one honour, but
no sequence of honours

KJ732

-2nd highest from a suit with no honours

97532

Contract: 3NT

	♠ Q 10 <u>2</u>	
♠ <u>3</u>	N W E S	♠ A <u>J</u> 5
	♠ <u>6</u>	

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	♠ <u>6</u>	

Contract: 3NT

	♠ Q 10 2	
♠ K 8 4 3	N W E S	♠ A J 5
	♠ 9 7 6	

Contract: 3NT

	♠ Q 10 <u>2</u>	
♠ <u>8</u>	N W E S	♠ A J 5

Rule of 11: $11 - 8 = 3$. Therefore ♠ 8 is NOT 4th highest

Contract: 3NT

	♠ Q 10 <u>2</u>	
♠ 9 <u>8</u> 6 4 3	N W E S	♠ <u>A</u> J 5
	♠ K <u>7</u>	

Maybe win ♠ A and switch to another suit

DLR: South VUL: NS	♠ Q 10 2 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ K 6 ♣ A K Q 10 2	W	N	E	S
					1NT
		P	3NT	P	P
		P			
♠ 8	N W E S	♠ A J 5 ♥ J 10 4 ♦ J 5 4 3 ♣ J 4 3			

DLR: South VUL: NS	♠ Q 10 2 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ K 6 ♣ A K Q 10 2	W	N	E	S
					1NT
		P	3NT	P	P
		P			
♠ 8	N W E S	♠ <u>A</u> J 5 ♥ J 10 4 ♦ J 5 4 3 ♣ J 4 3			

DLR: South VUL: NS	♠ Q 10 2	W	N	E	S
	♥ 8 7 2				1NT
	♦ K 6	P	3NT	P	P
	♣ A K Q 10 2	P			
♠ 9 8 6 4 3		N			♠ A J 5
♥ A Q 9 3	W		E		♥ J 10 4
♦ 9 8 2		S			♦ J 5 4 3
♣ 5					♣ J 4 3
	♠ K 7				
	♥ K 6 2				
	♦ A Q 10 7				
	♣ 9 8 7 6				

Leads

Lead Low = Like

- K 10 7 3 2 = Like (at least one honour)

Lead High = Hate

9 8 6 3 2 = Hate (no honours)

A popular alternative, which is even clearer, is to lead “Top of Nothing” vs NT only. i.e. 9

Signals

High to Encourage, Low to Discourage
(HELD)

1. When partner leads a suit, to signal whether you like the suit (High to Encourage)
2. When you discard (High to Encourage that suit, Low to Discourage)

Exactly the opposite to Leads!