

1

♠ AKJ872
♥ K8
♦ 65
♣ Q104

♠ 65 ♠ Q43
♥ AQJ75 ♥ 102
♦ KJ7 ♦ 8432
♣ 865 ♣ AKJ2

♠ 109
♥ 9643
♦ AQ109
♣ 973

Dealer: North
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	1 NT
2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♣ A

Bidding: The auction may end in 2♠.
Lead: Normally lead the suit partner bid, unless you have something clearly better, and this is such a case. West should discourage and West shifts to ♥10, won with ♥A. Now West can switch back to a club

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	-	1	-
S	-	-	-	1	-
E	2	2	3	-	1
W	2	2	3	-	1

Best Opening Leads:

vs North 1S: H-102 D-8432 C-AK
vs South 1S: S-65 H-AQJ75 C-865
vs East 1N: S-109

2

♠ AQ
♥ K842
♦ J32
♣ AK97

♠ 8653 ♠ J9742
♥ Q9 ♥ J106
♦ K10974 ♦ 65
♣ J8 ♣ Q106

♠ K10
♥ A753
♦ AQ8
♣ 5432

Dealer: East
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♣ J

Bidding: North does best to use Stayman to uncover the heart fit.

Lead: A diamond lead could give away a trick. Perhaps a club?

Play: With a 3:2 division in clubs and hearts, you should lose one trick in each suit. You will also lose a diamond - to make 10 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	4	-	4	-	2
S	4	-	4	-	2
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

Best Opening Leads:

vs North 2N: S-J9742
vs South 2N: S-8653

3

♠ J1096
♥ J7632
♦ J
♣ K102

♠ A4 ♠ K3
♥ 984 ♥ AKQ
♦ AQ764 ♦ K109852
♣ 975 ♣ A3

♠ Q8752
♥ 105
♦ 3
♣ QJ864

Dealer: South
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass	4 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
5 ♥	Pass		
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♣ Q

Bidding: West shows 10-12 points with a raise to 3♦. With 19 points, East checks on Aces, and signs off in 6♦, with 29-31 points and a great diamond fit.

Play: There is one club loser, and the contract should make 12 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	6	-	-	6
W	-	6	-	-	6

Best Opening Leads:

vs East 6N: Any Card
vs West 6N: Any Card
vs East 6D: Any Card

4

♠ AQ75
♥ 54
♦ 842
♣ Q654

♠ K83 ♠ 964
♥ AKJ876 ♥ 1092
♦ Q53 ♦ AKJ107
♣ 10 ♣ 92

♠ J102
♥ Q3
♦ 96
♣ AKJ873

Dealer: West
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♥	3 ♣	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♣ 4

Bidding: NS might push the opponents to 3♥. Play: At trick 1 suppose South wins with ♠K, West discarding ♠10. The lead of a low club at trick 1 suggests North has an honour (♠Q), so unless West is falsecarding, there are no more clubs to cash. With those threatening diamonds in dummy, South must shift to a spade (♠J) or declarer will be able to discard 2 spade losers on the diamonds. The best defence will collect 3♠ and 1♣.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	3	-	-	3	-
S	3	-	-	3	-
E	-	3	3	-	-
W	-	3	3	-	-

5

♠ AQJ95
♥ 2
♦ A876
♣ K74

♠ 43
♥ AK943
♦ K54
♣ A103

♠ K1086
♥ 65
♦ QJ109
♣ J85

♠ 72
♥ QJ1087
♦ 32
♣ Q962

Dealer: North
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♥ A

Bidding: East-West might push the opponents into 4♠.

Lead: ♥AK, ruffed by North.

Play: Suppose declarer draws trumps in 2 rounds and then leads ♦Q to East's ♦K. What should East now play? A heart of club lead can help declarer here, so the best return is a passive diamond. Make declarer play the club suit himself and he could easily lose 3 tricks there - down 2. If you lead a club you give declarer an extra trick.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	3	-	3	-
S	-	3	-	3	-
E	2	-	3	-	1
W	2	-	3	-	1

6

♠ QJ10
♥ AJ10652
♦ 83
♣ Q9

♠ K83
♥ Q9873
♦ AQ4
♣ A8

♠ A542
♥ 4
♦ K1072
♣ KJ65

♠ 976
♥ K
♦ J965
♣ 107432

Dealer: East
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♥ 4

Bidding: South makes a standard takeout double - perfect distribution, though a minimum in points - and North has that 'once in a blue moon' hand where it is right to pass for penalties, though 2NT is an alternative.

Lead: A trump is called for, as partner's trumps should be better than declarer's.

Play: North should win ♥A and switch to ♠Q.

Declarer does best not to draw trumps in this situation, and may manage 5 or 6 tricks: 1♣, 1-2♦, and maybe 3 trumps.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	2	3	2
S	-	-	2	3	2

7

♠ 764
♥ K965
♦ Q8
♣ K874

♠ J98
♥ 32
♦ 7543
♣ AJ105

♠ AQ32
♥ AJ104
♦ A1096
♣ 3

♠ K105
♥ Q87
♦ KJ2
♣ Q962

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♣ 2

Bidding: South opens the middle of 3 touching suits. The bidding might stop in a part-score or game.

Lead: A club is the least unattractive lead.

Play: Suppose declarer plays low from dummy. A low club suggest an honour in clubs, so East can win with ♣10. Now what? A diamond, club or heart lead may help declarer, so lead a spade - leading into dummy's weakness. Now declarer may end up losing 2♠, 1♥, 1♦ and 1♣.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	3	2	1
S	-	-	4	2	1
E	1	-	-	-	-

8

♠ 6
♥ Q973
♦ K753
♣ 7542

♠ 10873
♥ J6
♦ A10942
♣ 63

♠ K954
♥ A105
♦ QJ8
♣ KQJ

♠ AQJ2
♥ K842
♦ 6
♣ A1098

Dealer: West
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♣ K

Bidding: In this bidding sequence, East's 1♠ is not 4th suit forcing, but natural. This allows the spade fit to be found. South might consider a 1NT overcall.

Play: This could be a hand where cross-ruffing works out well. Win ♣A, play a low diamond towards ♥K. Suppose South wins ♥A and cashes a club. When you regain the lead try cross ruffing diamonds and hearts or clubs.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	-	-	3	-
W	-	-	-	3	-

Best Opening Leads:

9

♠ 75
♥ KQJ3
♦ 97543
♣ 42

♠ AK1096 ♠ QJ82
♥ 84 ♥ 652
♦ Q8 ♦ AJ2
♣ QJ103 ♣ A87

♠ 43
♥ A1097
♦ K106
♣ K965

Dealer: North
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening Lead: ♥ K

Bidding: West shows a 5-card major, which East supports.

Play: After winning ♥KQ, the 3rd round gets ruffed by West. Suppose declarer now draws trumps in 2 rounds, and leads ♣Q, won by ♣K. What should South now play? NOT a diamond, NOT a heart. The only safe return is a passive club. You can defeat the contract with ♦K - but not if you lead that suit. A heart is also dangerous as it presents declarer with a ruff and discard. Left to his own devices, declarer should lose 2♥, 1♦ and 1♠.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	2	2	-	-
S	-	2	2	-	-
E	2	-	-	3	2

10

♠ J94
♥ 74
♦ K9
♣ J107432

♠ Q1065
♥ J105
♦ 863
♣ KQ6

♠ 8
♥ AQ9632
♦ A107
♣ A95

♠ AK732
♥ K8
♦ QJ542
♣ 8

Dealer: East
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	1 ♠
1 NT	Pass	2 ♥	3 ♦
3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead:

Bidding: With 5:5 distribution, South might well venture 3♦ over 2♥, and may now outbid 4♥ with 4♠. West may well chose to double this.

Lead: ♥J or ♠K are possible.
Play: Declarer may use that fact that West bid 1NT over 1♠ and doubled the final contract to lead a low spade towards dummy. This holds the spade losers to 1, though declarer should still lose: 1 heart, 1 diamond and 1 club - down 1 is the best the defence can do.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	1	1	-	3	-
S	1	2	-	3	-
E	-	-	3	-	1
W	-	-	3	-	1

11

♠ 10853
♥ 983
♦ KQJ3
♣ 86

♠ Q9
♥ J4
♦ 86542
♣ KQ93

♠ 62
♥ KQ6
♦ 109
♣ AJ7542

♠ AKJ74
♥ A10752
♦ A7
♣ 10

Dealer: South
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♥ K

Bidding: Using just HCP evaluation, South might rebid 3♠, which North would pass, but if he takes into account extras for his 2 long suits, plus a singleton, and a 9 card trump fit, he will bid game.

Lead: It turns out that a club is the best lead, but this is hard to find. On the lead of ♥K, partner should play ♥4, as ♥J might waste a trick.

Play: After a heart lead, you can draw trumps, cash your diamonds, discarding a club, and hold your losers to no more than 2 hearts.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	4	4	1
S	-	-	4	4	1
E	2	-	-	-	-

12

♠ 542
♥ 862
♦ 109643
♣ 85

♠ 986
♥ Q95
♦ 8752
♣ A64

♠ KQJ107
♥ AK107
♦ AK
♣ 97

♠ A3
♥ J43
♦ QJ
♣ KQJ1032

Dealer: West
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♣ K

Bidding: East's hand is worth 8 tricks, and opens a strong 2♠. South should overcall at the 3 level. When East bids a second suit, West should go to game with 6 points.

Play: Declarer has a spade and a club loser, and maybe a heart. But when hearts are played ♥J drops. Win ♣A, and lead trumps to make 11 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	-	5	5	1
W	-	-	5	5	1

13

♠ 93
♥ KQJ4
♦ KQ8
♣ 6532

♠ AKQ7
♥ 65
♦ J9762
♣ A8

♠ 1084
♥ 972
♦ A104
♣ KQJ7

Dealer: North
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♣ K

Bidding: With 5 points, West has just enough to respond to 1♦, allowing the better spade contract to be found.

Play: Declarer has 6 top tricks: 4♠ and 2 aces, but can make more tricks by ruffing diamonds in dummy. In fact diamonds become established after 3 rounds, so you could end with 9 tricks, losing 1♣, 2♦ and 1♥.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	2	-	1	-	1
S	2	-	1	-	1
E	-	1	-	3	-
W	-	1	-	3	-

Best Opening Leads:
vs North 1N: Any Card

14

♠ 1096
♥ 1064
♦ K
♣ AKJ1073

♠ Q32
♥ K92
♦ AJ873
♣ 96

♠ AKJ87
♥ Q83
♦ 652
♣ 54

Dealer: East
Neither Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♦ 4

Bidding: It's hard to predict this auction. It might even be passed out. If West supports diamonds, North should probably rebid 2♠, rather than passing or bidding 3♣.

Play: East can win ♦A, but then looking at dummy, must realise the only other tricks can come from hearts or spades. So at trick 2 an active defence ♥2 is called for. Declarer should finesse in spades, to just make 9 tricks.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	3	-	-	3	-
S	3	-	-	3	-
E	-	3	2	-	-
W	-	3	2	-	-

Best Opening Leads:

15

♠ 4
♥ AJ984
♦ Q4
♣ QJ762

♠ 1076
♥ 10
♦ AK83
♣ A10543

♠ QJ9852
♥ K62
♦ J1052
♣

Dealer: South
N-S Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1NT	2♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♦ A

Bidding: If North overcalls 2♥, that may end the auction, though East would like to get into the bidding.

Play: East should shift to another suit at trick 2, as another diamond sets up this suit for declarer. Declarer could aim to ruff a couple of clubs or set up the diamond suit.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	2	1	-
S	-	-	2	1	-
E	-	-	-	-	1
W	-	-	-	-	1

Best Opening Leads:
vs North 1S: H-10 D-AK83 C-10543

16

♠ J96
♥ 4
♦ AJ75
♣ A8643

♠ Q874
♥ J652
♦ 842
♣ 75

♠ 532
♥ Q10873
♦ 1096
♣ 109

Dealer: West
E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♣ 4

Bidding: West shows a balanced 25-27 by rebidding 3NT.

Lead: No real suit has been bid, so a club lead seems likely.

Play: Declarer has 5 sure top tricks: 3♠ and 2♥ and should manage at least 2 more in clubs and 1 diamond at least. If you start by playing spades, you will make another 2 tricks there, when ♠J falls on the 3rd round.

<-Makeable contracts->

	C	D	H	S	NT
	=	=	=	=	==
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	-	2	4	3
W	-	-	3	4	3