

LATER LEADS AGAINST SUIT CONTRACTS

When leading a suit later in the play, including a switch after holding the opening lead, do not use Rusinow because leads from unsupported honors are too frequently called for. Most of the guidelines in section 1-4, Later Leads Against Notrump Contracts, under the heading Tactical Considerations, can be applied to suit contracts.

When ruffing is a possibility, lead the lower card from a doubleton (as suggested for opening leads), but switch to high-low otherwise.

There are times when you do not want a continuation of the suit that you break, but can't lead a high (discouraging) card to say so. Example:

	♠ Q1087							
	♥ AK							
	♦ 874							
	♣ AKJ10							
♠ A5	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">North</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">West</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">East</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">South</td> </tr> </table>	North		West	East	South		♠ 62
North								
West	East							
South								
♥ 5		♥ QJ10873						
♦ KQJ32		♦ A1065						
♣ J8742		♣ 5						
	♠ KJ943							
	♥ 9632							
	♦ 9							
	♣ Q93							

South plays in 4♠ after East has bid hearts. West leads the ♥5, East plays the queen (suit preference), and South plays the ♥6 (hiding the ♥32). When West gets in with the ace of trumps, he leads the ♦Q marking the ♦K with South. East has nothing better to do now than win and lead another heart. After trumping this, West can try more diamonds. If West had led the ♦K, showing KQ, East would have no way of knowing that he must overtake and lead a heart back in order to save the overtrick. In fact, the ♦K play denies that the heart lead was a singleton.

Special Situations

Holding AQx(x) of a suit that you have not bid, a suit in which it is obvious your side must try for three tricks, do *not* play ace, then queen, if trumps have not been pulled. Playing AQ shows a doubleton in that situation, and partner would be justified in overtaking the queen with the king and leading a third round for you to ruff. With AQx(x) therefore, the correct lead is a low card, not the ace. If you want partner to take the third trick, lead the queen, then ace, then low (if you're sure he has at least three cards in the suit!).

When underleading an ace to partner's presumed king in a cash-out situation, show count (he will know you have the ace): low from an odd number of cards, high from an even number. When underleading a king to partner's presumed ace, lead low to show attitude (unless you want another suit led), regardless of the number of cards, because he won't know who has the king.