

Opening Leads

- Top of a 3-card sequence
- Top of a near 3-card sequence
- Top of an internal sequence
- 4th highest from a suit with one or more honours, not in sequence
- 2nd highest from a suit with no honours

Top of a 3-card (or longer) sequence
headed by at least one honour

KQJxx

QJ10xx

J109xx

1098xx

Top of a 3-card (or longer) near-sequence headed by at least one honour:

KQ10xx

QJ9xx

J108xx

1097xx

Pattern is 124

Top of an Internal Sequence

	Pattern
<u>K</u> <u>J</u> 10xx	134
<u>A</u> <u>J</u> 10xx	145
<u>Q</u> <u>10</u> 9xx	134
<u>K</u> <u>10</u> 9xx	145
<u>A</u> <u>10</u> 9xx	156
<u>A</u> <u>Q</u> Jxx	134

Pattern is
1 (break of 1 or more), sequence of 2 or more cards, headed
by an honour. **But lead ace vs a suit contract.**

4th Highest Lead from a suit with at least one honour

KJ984

K10842

KQ862 4th highest with a 2-card sequence vs NT
(Lead king vs a suit contract)

A9872 (sequence not headed by an honour)
(Lead ace vs a suit contract)

2nd Highest from a suit with no honours

98654 Some play “top of nothing” vs NT

9764 Some play “top of nothing” vs NT

962 MUD

J8542 4th highest with an honour
(suggests you want the suit returned).

Top of a sequence	Attractive
Top of a near-sequence	Quite Attractive
Internal sequence	OK vs NT especially from a 5+card suit. Not so attractive from a 4-card suit, or vs suit contract.
4 th highest, from a suit with no sequence	Often a good choice from a long suit, especially vs NT.
2 nd highest from a suit with no honours.	Can be OK – fairly passive

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

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

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

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

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