

# Fifth Chair



## Journalist leads

Sometimes called coded 10's and 9's are usually used vs NT contracts, however some do play them vs suit. {always promises the card directly above}

- a) The lead of a Jack denies a higher honor. JT9xx JT8xxx
- b) The lead of a ten shows either AJT9x KJT9x (9 could be 8), top of sequence T98xx T976x (zero or two higher)
- c) The lead of a 9 shows AT98x KT98x QT98x (8 could be 7), top of sequence 98765.

These leads are usually based on 5 card or longer suits. It is seldom right to lead the suit with 4, that is not to say that you shouldn't, but think a bit more.

AQT9x - it is usually best to lead the Queen – this requests the jack. It also picks up a singleton jack in dummy or partner's hand. Same with KQT9x.

KJT9xx, lead the King not the ten. Pick up singleton Queen in dummy or partner's hand. (if declarer has the AQ, it doesn't matter once you have decided to lead this suit).