

Leads Holding the Ace

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Last Revised March 23, 2016

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaDefense/Leads-HoldingtheAce.pdf>

Against No Trump only, the Ace asks partner to drop an honour or give count. BTW, also against No Trump, the lead of the King asks for attitude to avoid the bath coup and the lead of the Queen asks partner to drop the Jack or give count.

"The ace is the normal lead versus a notrump contract when you hold four honor cards or three top honor cards and a six-card or longer suit:" Root Page 3

- AKQ10
- AKJ10x
- AKJxxx
- AQJ10x conceivably if you have a side entry"

In that vein, some will lead KQxxx with a side entry. Works well when declarer or dummy has AJ doubleton. (I don't have a reference for this but it makes sense. If declarer has AJ frozen, dummy has 9xx and partner has 10xx, you have done well not to have lost two tricks but the suit is blocked and you need an outside entry to enjoy your long suit.)

Also lead fourth best from:

- AK10xxx
- AKxxxx
- AKxxx

King from

- AKQx
- AKJx
- AK10x

Close Call between 4th best and the King (do either one after listening to the bidding and using your judgment):

- AKQxx
- AKJxx
- AKxx

Interior Sequence:

- AQJxx or longer
- AQJ9
 - Not this suit
 - lead top of nothing in a side-suit and partner should lead the suit seeing weakness in dummy in that suit.

Reference

Root, William S, "How to defend a bridge hand," New York: Crown Publishers, 1994.