

Reading Partner's Lead

Masterclass, September 2023

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▶ Three types of leading convention:



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- Attitude

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- Count

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All methods lead top-of-sequence
from 2+ touching honours (AK→T9)



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Attitude-showing leads

“Attitude leads”

→ Low = Like, High = Hate



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▶ Low shows an honour or honours (not a sequence!)



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“Attitude leads”

→ Low = Like, High = Hate

- ▶ Low shows an honour or honours (not a sequence!)
- ▶ High denies any honours

Attitude-showing leads – to discuss

▶ Does the Ten count as an honour?

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Attitude-showing leads – to discuss

▶ Does the Ten count as an honour?

e.g. T853

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Attitude-showing leads – to discuss

► Does the Ten count as an honour?

e.g. T853

- If yes, lead the 3.

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Attitude-showing leads – to discuss

► Does the Ten count as an honour?

e.g. T853

- If yes, lead the 3.
- If no, lead the 8. (T would promise 9)

Attitude-showing leads – to discuss

- ▶ Can we adjust if we deem it important for P to return the suit?

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e.g. T8543 against NT but T is not an honour

- If yes, lead the 3.
- If no, lead the 8.

Attitude-showing leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 2.

Dummy: KT3

You: AJ84

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The 2 must be a low card, so P is showing an honour.

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The 2 must be a low card, so P is showing an honour.

The only honour you cannot see is the Q.

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Partner leads the 2.

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The 2 must be a low card, so P is showing an honour.

The only honour you cannot see is the Q.

P has Qxx, Qxxx or Qxxxx (but not the latter if Decl=bal)

Attitude-showing leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 9.

Dummy: KT3

You: AJ84

Attitude-showing leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 9.

Dummy: KT3

You: AJ84

The 9 is a high card, so P does not have an honour.

Attitude-showing leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 9.

Dummy: KT3

You: AJ84

The 9 is a high card, so P does not have an honour.

Therefore, Declarer has the Q.

Attitude-showing leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 9.

Dummy: KT3

You: AJ84

The 9 is a high card, so P does not have an honour.

Therefore, Declarer has the Q.

9 is from 9xxxx (unless Decl=bal), 9xxx, 9xx or 9x (unless Decl has denied 4)

▶ Three types of leading convention:

- Attitude
- Count
- Combination

All methods lead top-of-sequence
from 2+ touching honours (AK→T9)

▶ What does Argine do?

Count-showing leads

Three common types:

- ▶ 3rd/5th
- ▶ 3rd/low
- ▶ 2nd/4th (Polish-style)

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3rd from 3 or 4 cards; 5th from 5+ cards; top of doubleton

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3rd from even; low from odd; top of doubleton

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Three common types:

▶ 3rd/5th

3rd from 3 or 4 cards; 5th from 5+ cards; top of doubleton

▶ 3rd/low

3rd from even; low from odd; top of doubleton

▶ 2nd/4th (Polish-style)

2nd from 2 or 3; 4th from 4+; top of Hx doubleton

Count-showing leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 4.

Dummy: K65

You: AQT



Count-showing leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 4.

Dummy: K65

You: AQT

- ▶ 3rd/5th → 4x, xx4, xx4x, Jx4, Jx4x, J9874, J9874x
- ▶ 3rd/low → 4x, xx4, xx4x, Jx4, Jx4x, J9874



Count-showing leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 4.

Dummy: K65

You: AQT

- ▶ 3rd/5th → 4x, xx4, xx4x, Jx4, Jx4x, J9874, J9874x
- ▶ 3rd/low → 4x, xx4, xx4x, Jx4, Jx4x, J9874
- ▶ 2nd/4th (Polish-style) → x4, x4x, J4x, 9874, Jxx4, 9874x, Jxx4x, 9874xx, Jxx432

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- Attitude
- Count
- **Combination**

All methods lead top-of-sequence
from 2+ touching honours (AK→T9)

▶ What does Argine do?

Combination leads

"2nd/4th leads" (Anglophone), also referred to as "4th best" or simply "standard"

→ 2nd = no honour, 4th = honour



Combination leads

"2nd/4th leads" (Anglophone), also referred to as "4th best" or simply "standard"

→ 2nd = no honour, 4th = honour

▶ With Hxx, lead the lowest.

Combination leads – to discuss

- ▶ Decide whether the T is an honour (as with pure attitude leads)



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Combination leads – to discuss

- ▶ Decide whether the T is an honour (as with pure attitude leads)
- ▶ Decide what to lead from xxx
 - “Top of nothing”
 - “MUD” (Middle – Up – Down)
 - “Low”

Combination leads – to discuss

- ▶ Decide whether the T is an honour (as with pure attitude leads)
- ▶ Decide what to lead from xxx
 - “Top of nothing” BUT beware that this looks like a doubleton
 - “MUD” (Middle – Up – Down)
 - “Low”

Combination leads – to discuss

- ▶ Decide whether the T is an honour (as with pure attitude leads)
- ▶ Decide what to lead from xxx
 - “Top of nothing” BUT beware that this looks like a doubleton
 - “MUD” (Middle – Up – Down) BUT don’t forget to do the Up
 - “Low”

Combination leads – to discuss

- ▶ Decide whether the T is an honour (as with pure attitude leads)
- ▶ Decide what to lead from xxx
 - “Top of nothing” BUT beware that this looks like a doubleton
 - “MUD” (Middle – Up – Down) BUT don’t forget to do the Up
 - “Low” BUT beware that this looks like low from an honour

Combination leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 2.

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Combination leads – Reading the lead

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Combination leads – Reading the lead

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The 2 must be a low card, so P is showing an honour.

The 2 is therefore P's 4th-highest card.

Combination leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 2.

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The 2 must be a low card, so P is showing an honour.

The 2 is therefore P's 4th-highest card.

The 2 is the lowest card.

Combination leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 2.

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The 2 must be a low card, so P is showing an honour.

The 2 is therefore P's 4th-highest card.

The 2 is the lowest card.

Therefore, P has Qxx2 (or, rarely, Qx2).

Combination leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 9.

Dummy: KT3

You: AJ84

The 9 is a high card, so P does not have an honour.

Combination leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 9.

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The 9 is a high card, so P does not have an honour.

Therefore, Declarer has the Q.

Combination leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 9.

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The 9 is a high card, so P does not have an honour.

Therefore, Declarer has the Q.

The 9 should be Partner's 2nd-highest card but that is impossible!

Combination leads – Reading the lead

Partner leads the 9.

Dummy: KT3

You: AJ84

The 9 is a high card, so P does not have an honour.

Therefore, Declarer has the Q.

The 9 should be Partner's 2nd-highest card but that is impossible!

Therefore, P has 9x (or singleton 9).

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▶ What does Argine do?

What does *Argine* do?

That depends on whether it is a suit or NT contract!

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- 3rd/5th against a suit contract
- 2nd/4th (Anglophone-style) against a NT contract

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 - T is an honour

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That depends on whether it is a suit or NT contract!

- 3rd/5th against a suit contract
- 2nd/4th (Anglophone-style) against a NT contract
 - T is an honour
 - Top from xxx

What does Argine do?


That depends on whether it is a suit or NT contract!

- 3rd/5th against a suit contract
- 2nd/4th (Anglophone-style) against a NT contract

→ T is an honour

→ Top from xxx

One unusual thing: 2nd from Hxx.

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of green and orange. A large green shape is on the left, and several orange and green shapes are on the right, creating a dynamic, layered effect.

Now, head to the
Reading the Lead tournament
and try the
practice hands!