

It's Your Lead! -- Problem

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A 6 5 3
♥ K J 7 5 3
♦ 9
♣ 8 3 2



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠ ¹	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			
1. Not forcing			
4 ♠ by South			

Would you lead a heart, to try to get control of the hand, or a diamond, to try for ruffs?

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With the auction shown, Eddie Kantar proposed five opening lead problems. The hand above was number 2.*

Kantar wrote, "Most players like to lead singletons so much they lead them even when they don't have any trump!"

I ran an opening lead simulation of 5,000 deals for the leads of the ♥ 5 (fourth best) and the ♦ 9. Here are the results:

	♥ 5	♦ 9
Total Tricks for Defense	12814	14540
Average Tricks for Defense	2.56	2.91
Lead Sets 4 ♠ Contract	13.1%	26.8%

Lead the singleton!

The main reason I ran this simulation was to develop a faster way of doing it. Previously, my only method was using Bridge Composer and GIB to actually play the hands. Running 5,000 deals would take up to three days of continuous computer processing, with two tasks (one for each lead) running at the same time, on my fast computer. The quality of the results was very good, but oh, so slow.

The new method uses Deal and Bo Haglund's double dummy solver. It produced good results for 5,000 deals in less than ten minutes. For details, see Practice Deals and Lead Problems at <https://3nt.xyz/bridge.htm#Articles>.

* From an old Ashlar House bridge calendar page, Saturday September 8, an unspecified year of the fourteen the calendar was published.S