

Beware the singleton lead.

An opening lead in a suit you have bid or in a suit where your partnership has both length and strength indicates that the suit is dividing unevenly. You should usually be drawing trumps early in the hand before your opponents start trumping your winners in the singleton suit. If you think the lead is a singleton then you can also place the location of your opponents' honour strength in the suit.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;">11</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">D</div>	N North ♠ 10843 ♥ Q6 ♦ 5 ♣ Q97653	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>P</td><td>2♦</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥</td><td>P</td><td style="background-color: #ffff00;">3♠</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>4NT</td><td>P</td><td style="background-color: #ffff00;">5♥</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>6♠</td><td>P</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♠	P	2♦	P	2♥	P	3♠	P	4NT	P	5♥	P	6♠	P	P	P
	W	N	E	S																		
1♠	P	2♦	P																			
2♥	P	3♠	P																			
4NT	P	5♥	P																			
6♠	P	P	P																			
W West ♠ AQJ72 ♥ AK753 ♦ Q10 ♣ 2	E East ♠ K95 ♥ 9 ♦ AJ97643 ♣ AJ																					
	S South ♠ 6 ♥ J10842 ♦ K82 ♣ K1084	6♠ W NS: 0 EW: 0																				

You are west with ♠AQJ72 ♥AK753 ♦Q10 ♣2.

You have bid to 6♠, north leads ♦5 and the dummy east reveals ♠K95 ♥9 ♦AJ97643 ♣AJ.

The declarer and the dummy have nine cards together in diamonds. **Do not finesse!** North looks to have led a singleton diamond so south has ♦K. If you play low from east, south will win ♦K and return a diamond for north to trump. So win ♦A from east. **Be careful to unblock diamonds by playing ♦Q from west. So often in bridge it is necessary to play the top card from a doubleton.**

Now draw trumps. Watch carefully, as on the second round of trumps south discards a club. You will have to play four rounds of trumps to draw all north's trumps. After drawing trumps, lead ♦10 from west, overtaking with east's ♦J. South wins ♦K and leads a heart as south knows north has no trumps left to trump diamonds. Win ♥K and play ♣2 to east's ♣A to make all east's diamond winners. Note that if you had kept ♦Q at the first trick, south could let ♦Q win and you would go down as you wouldn't be able to knock out south's ♦K.