

When your partner leads a low card against a no-trump contract, you should automatically use the rule of eleven. In these two hands you will get a surprise.

Hand No. 5

Opening Lead 7♦

	♠ A K 5		West	North	East	South
	♥ Q 10 6			1NT	P	3NT
	♦ 4 2		P	P	P	
	♣ A Q 10 6 2					
♠ J 9 7 4		♠ Q 10 2				
♥ K 5 2		♥ J 7 3				
♦ A J 9 3		♦ Q 10 8 7				
♣ 9 4		♣ J 7 5				
	♠ 8 6 3					
	♥ A 9 6 4					
	♦ K 6 5					
	♣ K 8 3					

West uses the rule of eleven. $11 - 7 = 4$. West knows that there are four cards higher than the 7 in the remaining three hands. He can see all of them. Therefore declarer has none. West's correct play is 3♦, keeping east on lead for a diamond continuation. The defence wins four diamond tricks and the K♥.

Hand No. 6

Opening lead 7♥

	♠ 10 7 6		West	North	East	South
	♥ A J 9 4				1NT	P
	♦ K 8 4		2♣	P	2♦	P
	♣ J 7 2		3NT	P	P	P
♠ Q J 3 2		♠ A K 4				
♥ K 5 2		♥ 6 3				
♦ A J 9		♦ Q 10 6 5				
♣ 9 8 3		♣ A K 6 4				
	♠ 9 8 5					
	♥ Q 10 8 7					
	♦ 7 3 2					
	♣ Q 10 5					

North uses the rule of eleven to determine that declarer has no heart higher than the seven. North must play 4♥ on the first trick. South will be surprised to win the trick but will surely lead another heart. The defence wins four heart tricks and K♦.

