

# NEVER UNDERLEAD AN ACE EXCEPT.....



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**KIT WOOLSEY SAYS:**

**“I don’t know why everyone makes a big deal about underleading Aces. It’s just like any other opening lead. Sometimes it’s right, sometimes it’s wrong”**

**ANDREW ROBSON SAYS:**

**“If you remember one thing...  
NEVER Underlead an Ace.**

I hear from students all the time chanting the MANTRA, I was told *Never to Underlead an Ace*.

I would say that most of the time, that statement is correct, however never say Never. If you are defending a NT contract, it’s almost always right to get your suit going. If your suit is headed by the Ace, why not lead it.

Consider the following hand:

West

♠AJ875

♥K65

♦1098

♣J10

Contract 3NT

Lead 4th best ♠7 – You have a good entry and a possible side entry with the ♥K.

Here’s another example when you might consider underleading an Ace.

North

♠9765

♥KJ

♦J1093

♣Q74

West

East

♠A108	♠32
♥A86	♥Q432
♦7654	♦82
♣986	♣K10532

South  
 ♠KQJ4  
 ♥10975  
 ♦AKQ  
 ♣AJ

Dealer: South

West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After your club/diamond lead and Declarer plays trump, win your Ace. You see Dummy's ♥KJ, you might consider underleading your ♥A in tempo, and hope Declarer mis guesses! It is not likely to cost you losing your Ace for you know Declarer started with 4♥'s from the Stayman auction.

In the next example you might be taking a chance, but the auction lends itself to being the right lead.

West  
 ♠AJ9653  
 ♥98  
 ♦KJ842  
 ♣-

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♥	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After your Michaels call, your partner supported your spade suit twice. He is likely to hold the KING.

**Lead your lowest spade**, when his King holds, Partner will have to think why did you underlead your Ace?

Aha! You want a ruff, and a club ruff since you led your **LOWEST** club.