

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 4 3

♥ 8 5

♦ T 8 5 3 2

♣ 7 6

♠ A J

♥ A Q T 9 4 3

♦ J

♣ A J 9 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q T 8 5 2

♥ 6

♦ Q 9 7

♣ K Q 5 2

♠ 7 6

♥ K J 7 2

♦ A K 6 4

♣ T 8 3

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

6♥ by North

you have no ruff-sluff. The only thing you can do is to go ahead and play ♣s now, finessing into East and HOPING he has no more ♦s!

But if it had turned out that East DID have another ♦, and led it, all would not be lost. You would ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy, then take a second ♣ finesse. If it turned out the ♣K and ♣Q were in different hands you would make the slam.

Baker Eliminations 21

After hearing a limit raise, North's leap to 6♥ is, well, bold let's say. North plays 6♥. East leads the ♠5, West plays the ♠K.

Win the ♠A, play the ♦J to dummy's ♦K and discard the ♠J on dummy's ♦A.

You are in dummy, so ruff the ♠7 with a high trump. Next play the ♥9 to dummy's ♥J. Both defenders follow, whew!

Back in dummy, ruff a ♦ with the ♥Q, then lead the ♥T to dummy's ♥K, pulling the last trump as you enter dummy.

It would be great if you could ruff dummy's last ♦, then get back to dummy with a trump so you could lead a ♣ from dummy and finesse. But check your trumps. If you do that you will have no more trumps in your hand and East won't be endplayed because

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J T 8 6 5 3

♥ T 5

♦ J T 8

♣ 3

♠ A 7 2

♥ K Q J

♦ 7 5 2

♣ K J 6 2

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ -

♥ 8 7 4 3 2

♦ 9 6 4 3

♣ T 9 8 7

♠ Q 9 4

♥ A 9 6

♦ A K Q

♣ A Q 5 4

West	North	East	South
3♠	6NT	All Pass	2NT

6NT by North



West has been thrown in and he has nothing left but the ♠ K J. Whichever one he plays you will take the last two tricks.

In fact, it just kept you from making a losing play, (leading toward the ♠ Q), and allowed you to find the end-play to make the slam.

Baker Eliminations 22

Some bidding, huh? Well, what would you have bid in the North seat? South plays 6NT. West leads the ♦ J.

That means you will have to make two ♠ tricks. And since the odds are 5000 to 1 that West has the ♠ K, leading toward your ♠ Q is NOT your play.

Win the ♦ and play 4 rounds of ♣ s. West follows to the first, then discards 3 ♠ s.

Next play 3 ♥ winners. West follows twice, then discards a ♠.

Now play your 2 ♦ winners. East and West both follow.

Keeping your fingers crossed that West must win the next trick you play the ♠ 9. West puts on the ♠ T, you play low in dummy, and East (thankfully) discards a



Board 3

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A Q J T 9 4

♥ 7 2

♦ Q 8

♣ J 6 5

♠ K 8 5

♥ A K T 5

♦ K 7 2

♣ K 7 4



♠ 6

♥ 9 4 3

♦ J T 9 6

♣ Q T 8 3 2

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♣
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

4♥ by South

suit again.

Play dummy's ♠ 7. West will win, but he has nothing left but ♠ s. When he plays another ♠ you discard your ♦ loser and ruff in dummy.

However, the key is that you could tell they were eliminated from the West hand, and West was going to be the throw-in target because of his long ♠ s.

In many hands an opponent who opens with a preemptive bid gives you the information you need to plan and execute the throw-in.

Baker Eliminations 23

North is to play 4♥. East leads the ♠ 6, taken by West with the ♠ A. West returns the ♠ Q, you play the ♠ K and East ruffs. East next leads the ♦ J.

After that unfortunate start you seem to be in a bit of trouble. Two tricks are already in the defender's pockets and you still have a ♠ loser and a ♦ loser. So you win with your ♦ K and play two rounds of trumps.

The good news is that East started with three trumps, and since he already used one it only takes two pulls to pick up the remaining trumps.

Eliminate ♣ s by playing ♣ A, ♣ K, and ruffing a ♣ . Both defenders follow to all three ♣ s.

So far West has followed suit to every trick, meaning he has not discarded a single ♠ . Since you know he started with 6 ♠ s, his final 5 cards consist of 4 ♠ s and one other. You play to the ♦ A and West follows

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 7
♥ K 9 7 3
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ K T 5 2

♠ A J 9 6 5 3

♥ 5 2

♦ A 2

♣ 8 7 6

N
W
E
S

♠ 8 4
♥ J T 8
♦ J T 8 5 4
♣ A 9 3

♠ K Q T 2
♥ A Q 6 4
♦ Q 7
♣ Q J 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠

4 ♠ by North

If it is West who won the ♦ K you are home free. His ♥ play will give you two ♥ tricks.

If it is East who won the ♦ K you still have a chance. He will lead a ♥ and you will finesse the ♥Q.

In other words, played this way you make the contract whenever West holds the ♦ K OR East holds the ♥K.

But if the ♦ K is with East and the ♥K with West it wouldn't.

Of course it is POSSIBLE that if you played a low ♦ from dummy some Easts would duck and let you win a trick with your ♦ Q.

This trickery would fail if West held the ♦ K, or if East held it and went up right away.

Baker Eliminations 24

North first transfers you to ♠s, then closes the auction with 4♠.

South is to play 4♠. West leads the ♣2. East takes the ♣A and returns the ♣9 to West's ♣K. West plays another ♣ to your ♣Q.

With two tricks lost already you have a sure ♦ loser (unless the defenders goof) and a ♥ loser that might be taken care of if East holds the ♥K. But what if West holds the ♥K? Maybe an elimination play.

First pull trumps - they split 2-1.

Next eliminate ♦s by playing ♦A then another ♦. This does the elimination and throw-in at the same time.

If the defender who won the ♦ K plays a ♦ or a ♣ you will ruff in your hand and discard dummy's ♥ loser. So that defender is going to have to lead a ♥.

Board 5

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K J T 9 7 6

♥ K T 3

♦ Q 8 2

♣ 4

♠ 4 3

♥ A 7

♦ 7 5 3

♣ A Q J 9 6 3



♠ A Q 5 2

♥ 6

♦ A K J 6

♣ K T 8 7

West	North	East	South
2♠	3♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

6♦ by South

plays the ♠K you will ruff, and dummy's ♠Q will be promoted. If he plays a small ♠ you will let it ride to dummy's ♠Q.

I hope you enjoyed them.

Baker Eliminations 25

North plays 6♦. East leads the ♠8.

You have one ♠ loser and one ♦ loser. A successful finesse will take care of either one of them. Chance of the ♠ finesse working? Zero. Chance of the ♦ finesse working? Maybe 50%. Chance of an elimination play? Priceless.

Win the ♠A and pull trumps with the ♣A and ♣Q. They split 2-1.

Play the ♦A, just in case there is a singleton ♦Q somewhere. There isn't. Then eliminate ♥s by playing ♥A and ruff a ♥.

Now play a low ♠ from both hands. East doesn't follow suit as West wins with a small card.

West is end-played. He has no ♣s. If he plays a ♦ it will be into dummy's ♦ K J. If he plays a ♥ you will discard a ♦ from your hand and ruff in dummy. If he