

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 3 2
 ♥ A 8 7 3
 ♦ 9 7 4
 ♣ J T 2

♠ K Q J 5

♥ K T

♦ A 8 3

♣ A 9 6 4



♠ T 8 4

♥ 6 5 2

♦ K Q J T 5

♣ K 8

♠ A 7 6

♥ Q J 9 4

♦ 6 2

♣ Q 7 5 3

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

3 NT by North

Baker Holdup 1

North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♦ K.

Winners: ♠=4 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=1 Total = 6

You need 3 more winners, and they must come from the ♥ suit. The danger is that when you knock out the ♥ A, East may take too many ♦ s. To exhaust West of ♦ s you hold-up your ♦ A until the third round.

Next you start on ♥ s by playing ♥ K, then overtaking the ♥ T. Assume that West wins the second ♥.

You were fortunate it was West who took the ♥ A, and that he has no ♦ to return. If he plays a ♥ or a ♠ you will win in dummy. If he plays a ♣ you will jump up with the ♣ A and take your winners, 9 in all.

But if you had not held-up your ♦ A even good luck wouldn't have helped you.

Board 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J T 5

♥ J T

♦ 9 6 2

♣ J 7 6

♠ A 7 6

♥ A 8 6 5 3

♦ K 5

♣ A K 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 4 3

♥ Q 9 7 2

♦ A 8 4

♣ Q T 2

♠ 8 2

♥ K 4

♦ Q J T 7 3

♣ 9 8 4 3

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

1NT

Pass

3NT

All Pass

3 NT by North

♥ A. Voila!

But what if East actually held 4 ♠s? No problem, in that case the ♠s would have split 4-4 so the defenders could only win 3 ♠ tricks and the ♦ A.

The hold-up lets you make the contract whenever East holds the ♦ A. And if West happened to hold the ♦ A??? You go down.

Baker Holdup 2

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠ K.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 5

Even if ♥s split 3-3 you could only get 2 extra winners there, so it should be clear that you must establish the ♦s. You will have to drive out the ♦ A and hope they don't win too many ♠s at that time. You can help your chances by a hold-up of the ♠ A until the third round.

Having just taken the third ♠ trick you now work on ♦s by first playing the ♦ K, then continuing the suit. East wins the third one with his ♦ A. And now the good news - he has no ♠ left to reach his partner's good tricks. So East plays the ♥ Q.

At this point in the play you have three tricks in the bank; ♠ A, ♦ K, ♦ Q. You take your ♥ K, cash the two good ♦s, then lead to dummy for the ♣ A K and

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 8 6
♥ Q J 9 2
♦ K 7 4
♣ 9 7 3

♠ K 9 4

♥ A 6 3

♦ Q J 8 2

♣ K Q 4



♠ Q J 7 3 2

♥ T 7

♦ 6 5

♣ J T 8 2

♠ T 5

♥ K 8 5 4

♦ A T 9 3

♣ A 6 5

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3 NT by South

Baker Holdup 3

North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♠3. West wins the first trick with the ♠A and returns the ♠8.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 7

You can win 3 more ♦ tricks if the finesse works, but even if it doesn't work you can still get the 2 that you need. Of course if West does win the ♦K it would sure be great if he had no ♠ to lead. So you duck the second ♠ and take your ♠K when they play a third round.

After winning the ♠K you are conveniently in your hand, so you play the ♦Q and let it ride when East plays a low card. Alas, West takes the trick with his ♦K.

It's too bad the finesse didn't work, but it's not too too bad! Because West is out of ♠s and must lead one of the other suits. You don't care which he leads because you can now win 8 more tricks and make your contract.

And as long as you had held up on the ♠K until the third round you could ensure that West was out of ♠s if he had started with only 3.

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 8 4
♥ 6 5 4 2
♦ K Q J 4
♣ 7 5

♠ Q 6
♥ A T 9
♦ 7 5 2
♣ K J T 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 3 2
♥ Q 8 3
♦ T 9 6
♣ A Q 3

♠ A K 7 5
♥ K J 7
♦ A 8 3
♣ 9 8 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

3 NT by North

The rest of the tricks are yours, nine in all.

But with this layout you needed to hold up twice.

Baker Holdup 4

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♦ K.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 6

You will need some ♣ tricks to make the contract. If West has 5 ♦s and also the ♣A then you will go down. It doesn't matter if he has the ♣Q because you can finesse him out of that.

But in the case where East has both the ♣ A Q you need to make sure he has no ♦ when he takes his first trick. So hold up the ♦ A until the third round, everybody following.

Now start on the ♣s. Play your ♣9 and let it ride. East wins the ♣Q and returns a ♠. Good, he didn't have the fourth ♦.

Win with dummy's ♠Q and force out the ♣A.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 7 5 3

♥ J 9

♦ J 8 5 2

♣ Q T 4

♠ J T 9 4

♥ K Q 2

♦ A K 9

♣ K 7 6



♠ 6

♥ A T 8 6 4

♦ T 7 3

♣ J 8 3 2

♠ A Q 8 2

♥ 7 5 3

♦ Q 6 4

♣ A 9 5

West

North

East

South

1NT

Pass

3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

no ♥ to return so he plays a ♦ which you win with your ♦ A.

Play off your 7 winners and give up a ♣ at the end.

So you decide whether to hold up or not based on how you expect to play the hand.

Baker Holdup 5

With his 4-3-3-3 distribution South chooses not to bother with Stayman. North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♥ 6. West plays the ♥ J.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=1 ♦=3 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need to get two more winners. The ♥ suit might provide one of them, but you will still have to establish ♠s. The burning question is whether to win the first ♥ or to hold up. If you take this trick you will have a second stopper if East takes the lead, but you will be in extreme danger if West takes the lead. Since the ♠ finesse has to go into West you should hold up.

West returns the ♥ 9, East takes the ♥ A and clears the suit.

You have lost two tricks so far. Lead the ♠ J and let it ride. West wins their third trick with the ♠ K but has