

**Deal 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ 9 8 7  
♥ T 7 6 4 2  
♦ A 6 4 3  
♣ 7

13  
4 9  
14

♠ A J 5  
♥ K Q  
♦ Q J 8  
♣ T 9 8 5 3

N  
W E  
S

♠ K Q T 4 2  
♥ 9 8 5  
♦ T 9 7  
♣ A 4

♠ 6 3  
♥ A J 3  
♦ K 5 2  
♣ K Q J 6 2

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♠	3♣

Pass 3NT All Pass

3NT by North

Baker Signals 1

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠K, West played the ♠7 and North the ♠5.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You can see the ♠6, ♠5, ♠4, ♠3 and ♠2. So the ♠7 is West's lowest ♠, he is doing his best to discourage you from leading the suit again.

North held up with ♠ A J x, hoping you would play the suit again and give him two tricks.

If you play the ♦T West will win the ♦A and return a ♠, allowing you to drive out North's ♠A while you still have the ♣A for an entry.

**Deal 2**  
South Deals  
None Vul

♠ K Q T 4 2  
♥ 9 8 5  
♦ T 9 7  
♣ A 4

14  
9 5  
12

♠ 6 3  
♥ A J 3  
♦ K 5 2  
♣ K Q J 6 2

N  
W E  
S

♠ J 7 5  
♥ T 7 6 4 2  
♦ A 6 4 3  
♣ 7

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

3NT by South

than average Declarer. East just might hold ♠ 9 7, giving South ♠ A J 8 5. South played the ♠ 8 as a falsecard to tempt you into playing the suit again. This isn't too likely, but if it happens just congratulate South for the fine play.

**Baker Signals 2**  
You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ K, East played the ♠ 7 and South the ♠ 8.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You cannot see the ♠ 5. The most likely reason is that East has it, and his ♠ 7 is an encouraging signal. The only reason he would encourage you is if he held either the ♠ A or ♠ J.

Together, you two continue to play ♠ s to drive out South's ♠ A. When you get the lead with your ♣ A you will cash your ♠ winners and East will still have the ♦ A for some icing on the cake.

There IS another possibility if South is a better

**Deal 3**

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K 8 6 3  
♥ Q T  
♦ T 9 5 4 2  
♣ 8 2

14  
5 10  
11

♠ Q J 9  
♥ A 9 7 5 2  
♦ A K  
♣ T 9 7

N  
W E  
S

♠ 5 4  
♥ 6 4  
♦ J 7 3  
♣ A K Q 6 5 3

♠ A T 7 2  
♥ K J 8 3  
♦ Q 8 6  
♣ J 4

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

4♥ by North

Baker Signals 3

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣A, dummy played the ♣4 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East will play the ♣Q on which you will play the ♣2.

East now knows you started with a doubleton, and more importantly, he also knows you want him to play a third ♣.

When he next plays the ♣K dummy will ruff, but whatever card he ruffs with you will have established a trump trick. When you later win your ♠K that will be down 1.

**Deal 4**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 3  
 ♥ J 8 4 3  
 ♦ K J 9 5 2  
 ♣ 8 2

5  
 5 8  
 22

♠ J 8 4  
 ♥ 7 6 2  
 ♦ 8 4  
 ♣ K J 9 6 5

N  
 W E  
 S

♠ A K 5  
 ♥ A K Q 5  
 ♦ A T 6  
 ♣ Q T 3

♠ Q T 9 6 2  
 ♥ T 9  
 ♦ Q 7 3  
 ♣ A 7 4

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

3NT by North

**Baker Signals 4**

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♦ 5, East wins the ♦ Q and returns the ♦ 7. South holds up his ♦ A until the third round. He then plays the ♣ Q and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You assume (hope) that East holds the ♣ A. If he does then he will need help from you to decide which trick he should win. You play the ♣ 8 first, and the ♣ 2 next to show an even number.

If East is paying attention he will know to win the THIRD ♣. This will kill dummy's ♣ suit, and with it South's chance of making 9 tricks.

**Deal 5**  
South Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ Q T 8 4  
♥ Q J 9  
♦ K 9 5 2  
♣ 9 3

10  
8      8  
14

♠ K 9 3  
♥ A 7 6 5 4  
♦ J 8  
♣ Q 7 4

N  
W      E  
S

♠ J 7 6 5 2  
♥ 3  
♦ T 6 4  
♣ A K T 5

♠ A  
♥ K T 8 2  
♦ A Q 7 3  
♣ J 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

4♥ by North

### Baker Signals 5

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣A, dummy played the ♣2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you signal with the ♣9 East will continue with the ♣K and another which you will have to ruff. You will give up your NATURAL trump trick by doing so. Worse, you will allow South's ♣J to be established as a winner that North can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and North will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦K, return the ♣9 back to East's ♣K, and still have your trump trick for later.

**Deal 6**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q T 7

♥ T 9

♦ 9 7 2

♣ K 8 4

7  
12 3  
18

♠ J 6 4 2

♥ J 6 3

♦ A J 6

♣ T 7 3

	N		♠ 9 3
W		E	♥ 5 4
	S		♦ Q T 8 3
			♣ J 9 6 5 2

♠ 8 5  
♥ A K Q 8 7 2  
♦ K 5 4  
♣ A Q

West North East South

1♠

2♥

Pass

1♥

4♥

All Pass

4♥ by South

played this way.

Baker Signals 6

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠A, East plays the ♠9, South the ♠5. You assume East has signaled you to continue ♠s, so you play the ♠Q. On this trick East plays the ♠3 and South the ♠8. How will you continue?

When you have made your choice

You might just switch suits, but you have a better choice.

If you play your ♠Q, East won't bother ruffing, South WILL ruff and dummy's ♠J will be established as a winner.

The best procedure is to lead a low ♠. East will ruff and South will over-ruff but by playing this way you stop the establishment of North's ♠J. As you can see, South would have been able to discard a loser on that ♠J if you hadn't

**Deal 7**North Deals  
Both Vul

♠ A T 5 2  
♥ 8 5 3  
♦ A 7 3  
♣ J 6 2

19  
9 6  
6

♠ Q 7 4  
♥ A K 4  
♦ J 6  
♣ A K Q T 4

N  
W E  
S

♠ K 9 6 3  
♥ Q J T 7  
♦ 8 5 2  
♣ 8 3

♠ J 8  
♥ 9 6 2  
♦ K Q T 9 4  
♣ 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

either one or three so when he followed to the next ♦ you know he started with three. A little bit of counting tells you that North started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

This defense holds North to one ♦ tricks, if you had let him win the second one he would have had 9 tricks.

Baker Signals 7

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥Q, you played low and North won the ♥A.

North now plays the ♦J on which East plays the ♦2. What do you play now, and what is your plan.

When you have made your choice

South hoped his ♦ suit would provide enough tricks to make the game. You can see that there is no entry to the South hand EXCEPT in ♦s, so you want to win your ♦A on the trick that North plays his last ♦. How can you tell which trick that is?

Only by watching what East plays. On the ♦J East played the ♦2, a low card signaling that he held an ODD number of ♦s. ODD must be

**Deal 8**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 6 5  
♥ Q T 6 4  
♦ K 7 2  
♣ T 5 2

7  
9 5  
19

♠ K Q 9 3  
♥ 8 7 3  
♦ Q 6  
♣ 9 7 6 4

N  
W E  
S

♠ 8 7 2  
♥ J 9 5 2  
♦ A 8 4 3  
♣ 8 3

♠ J T 4  
♥ A K  
♦ J T 9 5  
♣ A K Q J

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

3NT by North

Baker Signals 8

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥4, East plays the ♥J, won by South with ♥A.

South plays the ♠J, you follow with ♠5, dummy ♠3 and East plays the ♠2. South continues with the ♠T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♠2 tells you he had an ODD number of ♠s, obviously 3. Since South also must have 3, you must take your ♠A on the third round, depriving dummy of the extra ♠ trick.

South may now turn to the ♦ suit, but your side can win the first ♦ and drive out South's ♥K. You will win 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and the ♠A, down 1

**Deal 9**North Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ 9 7 3 2  
♥ -  
♦ T 9 8 4 3  
♣ A K J 9

15  
8 4  
13

♠ A Q T 5  
♥ K Q 9 4  
♦ K J  
♣ 8 7 3

N  
W E  
S

♠ 8 4  
♥ A 8 7 5 2  
♦ 7 5 2  
♣ 6 4 2

♠ K J 6  
♥ J T 6 3  
♦ A Q 6  
♣ Q T 5

West      North      East      South  
All Pass      1NT      Pass      3NT

3NT by South

that you might like a ♣ so he plays his ♣2 and you win 4 tricks.

**Baker Signals 9**

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥5, dummy played the ♥T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You really want East to lead a ♣ if he gets into the lead. If you discard the ♣9 East will surely get the message and will lead a ♣. BUT - you will only win 3 ♣ tricks. The ♣9 would have been the fourth winner.

So instead, play a low card in one of the other suits, say the ♦3.

North is one trick short and he sees he can easily get that trick in ♥s. So he plays a second ♥ from dummy and you now discard the ♠2. East takes the ♥A and he can see that you don't want him to lead a ♠ or a ♦. He deduces

**Deal 10**

East Deals  
None Vul

♠ 6 5 3  
♥ 4  
♦ J 8 6 4 2  
♣ J 9 4 3

12  
2 8  
18

♠ K J 7  
♥ Q J 2  
♦ Q T 3  
♣ K T 7 5

♠ 8  
♥ A T 9 7 6 3  
♦ 9 7 5  
♣ A 6 2

N  
W E  
S

♠ A Q T 9 4 2  
♥ K 8 5  
♦ A K  
♣ Q 8

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All Pass			

4 ♠ by South

Baker Signals 10

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥4, East takes the ♥A and returns the ♥3. You ruff and then play what???

When you have made your choice

Partner played the ♥3, a low card, for you to ruff. That means his re-entry, if he has one, is in the lower-ranking suit.

Partner takes the ♣A and gives you a second ♥ ruff.

**Deal 11**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ T 9 4  
♥ 9 5 3  
♦ Q 7 2  
♣ A Q J 4

13  
9 8  
10

♠ A  
♥ A K J 8 7 2  
♦ J T 5  
♣ T 5 3

	N		♠ J 8 6 3
W		♥ T 6	
	E		♦ A K 8 4
	S		♣ 8 7 2

♠ K Q 7 5 2  
♥ Q 4  
♦ 9 6 3  
♣ K 9 6

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

2♥ by North

signal led to your side winning the first 6 tricks. Wow.

Baker Signals 11

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♦ A, dummy played the ♦ 3 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You know partner also has the ♦ K, and normally you would give an encouraging signal when you hold the Queen. But with this hand you want partner to switch to ♣s as soon as possible. So you play a low ♦.

East looks at your signal, then looks at dummy, then looks at your signal. He knows you want a switch and it looks like a switch to ♣s might work the best. North plays a low ♣ from dummy, you win the ♣ J. Next you play a low ♦, taken by East with his ♦ K. East leads a ♣. Dummy plays the ♣ K, you win that, cash another ♣, then cash your ♦ Q. That first

**Deal 12**South Deals  
None Vul

♠ 9 6 4

♥ A K 7 2

♦ A 8 6 3

♣ 9 5

10

11 6

13

♠ A T 3

♥ T 6

♦ 9 7 2

♣ K Q J 3 2

N
W
E
S

♠ 8

♥ Q J 8 4 3

♦ Q J T 4

♣ 8 7 6

♠ K Q J 7 5 2

♥ 9 5

♦ K 5

♣ A T 4

West

North

East

South

1 ♠

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

All Pass

4 ♠ by South

Baker Signals 12

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ A, East puts on the ♥ Q. It's your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♥ Q is either a singleton, (practically impossible), or a signal showing that he also holds the ♥ J. In either case you can reach the East hand on the second trick by playing a low ♥. Since you don't particularly want to start playing ♦ s from your side, you go ahead and play a small ♥, won by East with the ♥ J.

East next plays the ♦ Q and however South tries it your side will take the next two ♦ tricks and set the contract.

**Deal 13**

North Deals  
Both Vul

♠ T 9 6 3 2  
♥ K 2  
♦ Q J 8  
♣ 8 7 6

15  
6 10  
9

♠ A Q  
♥ J T 4  
♦ T 7 4 3  
♣ A K J 2

N  
W E  
S

♠ K 8 7 4  
♥ 6 3  
♦ A K 9 6  
♣ 9 5 3

♠ J 5  
♥ A Q 9 8 7 5  
♦ 5 2  
♣ Q T 4

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

4♥ by South

East's ♠K before North can pull trumps and discard one of dummy's ♠s on his fourth ♣.

**Baker Signals 13**

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. East led the ♦A, dummy played the ♦2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

As soon as dummy appears you can see 3 tricks for your side. Partner surely has the ♦K to go with his Ace and you have a certain trump trick. However, that's all you can see.

Your best hope is that East may be able to win a ♠ trick, and it may be important for the first ♠ lead to come from your side of the table.

Your ♦Q play informs partner that you also have the ♦J, giving him the option of underleading his ♦K to get to your hand.

East next plays a small ♦ which you win with your ♦J. You return the ♠T. This establishes

**Deal 14**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 9 6 5 2  
 ♥ A Q T 6  
 ♦ 9 5 4 2  
 ♣ -

8  
 7 8  
 17

♠ 7  
 ♥ 5 3 2  
 ♦ 7 3  
 ♣ A K J 9 6 4 2  
 ♠ T 8 4  
 ♥ J 7 4  
 ♦ K Q 8 6  
 ♣ Q 7 3  
 ♠ A K Q 3  
 ♥ K 9 8  
 ♦ A J T  
 ♣ T 8 5

N  
W E  
S

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

3NT by North

Baker Signals 14

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠5, East plays the ♠T and South wins the ♠K. To the second trick South plays the ♣T and you must discard something.

When you have made your choice

You know that East has no high ♠ honor or he would have played it to the first trick. So South has the ♠ A Q left, plus all those ♣ tricks. You need to have West switch to a ♥ if possible.

East must be expecting to lead a ♠ back when he wins the ♣Q which you hope he holds. Your ♠J discard may make him rethink. If your ♠s were any good why would you be discarding a winner when all you had to do was toss a small red card?

Hopefully East will come to the conclusion that this is Suit Preference for a ♥ return and will play his ♥J. Hopefully.

### Deal 15

## North Deals

## N-S Vul

♠ T 4  
♥ 9  
♦ J 8 7 2  
♣ A 9 8 6 5 3

18  
5 9  
8

♠ J 8 5	♠ A K Q 7 3
♥ A Q J 8 7 5 2	♥ 4
♦ A K	♦ T 6 5 3
♣ K	♣ T 7 2
N	
W	E
S	

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

4 ♥ by North

## Baker Signals 15

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠A, dummy played the ♠2 and you signal with your ♠T. East next plays the ♠Q and you drop the ♠4, completing your doubleton signal. East then plays the ♠K and it turns out you don't have to ruff after all. So what are you going to play?

When you have made your choice

This should be a clear enough signal for East to play a ♣ to your ♣A next.

An alternate play, just as good, would be for you to ruff the good ♠Q and play the ♣A yourself.

If you don't get your ♣ trick at trick 4 you will never get it. North will discard his ♣K on South's extra ♦ winner.

### *Deal 16*

## South Deals

None Vul

♠ T  
♥ 9 6 4 3  
♦ 9 7 5  
♣ K Q T 6 3

8	♠ A K 7 5 4
5 13	♥ T 8 5
14	♦ A K
	♣ 8 5 4

West              North              East              South  
                    1 ♠

4 ♠ by North

♥s).

♠ Q J 9 8 6 3

• 072

♦ Q 8 4

10

♠ 2  
♥ A K J  
♦ J T 6 3 2  
♣ A 9 7 2

♠ 2

♥ A K J

♦ JT 632

♣ A 9 7 2

♠ A K 7 5 4

♥ T 85

◆ A K

854

Baker Signals 16

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣K, dummy's singleton was played and it is your play.

## When you have made your choice

West will look at your ♣9 and perhaps think for an instant that you want him to play another ♣.

But it will be a short instant because a look at dummy makes in absolutely clear to everybody that playing another ♣ could not help your side. Dummy has so many trumps that repeated ♣ leads would do nothing.

OK. If it's not an encouraging Attitude signal, what is it? Suit preference of course. Since it is a high spot card you are asking West to switch to the higher suit (choosing between ♦'s and

West dutifully plays a  $\heartsuit$  and you take the next three tricks. Had he switched to a  $\diamond$  instead, South would have been able to discard one of his  $\heartsuit$  losers on North's  $\diamond Q$ .

**Deal 17**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 3  
♥ J T 6 2  
♦ K J 9 5 4 2  
♣ 3

6  
5 11  
18

♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2

♥ 8 5

♦ 6

♣ T 7 5

♠ 5  
♥ 9 7 3  
♦ A 8 7  
♣ A K 9 8 6 4

♠ A T 6  
♥ A K Q 4  
♦ Q T 3  
♣ Q J 2

N  
W E  
S

West	North	East	South
	3♠	Pass	4♠

All Pass

4 ♠ by South

Baker Signals 17

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣A. Seeing your ♣3 he next played the ♦A. What will you play on this trick?

When you have made your choice

Normally with this holding you would play the ♦9 to encourage East to play a second ♦ through dummy's ♦ Q T.

But this time you really want him to take his ♣K. So play the discouraging ♦2 and hope he gets the message to go back to ♣s. If he does play the ♣K next it will win and he can then give you a ♣ ruff.

**Deal 18**  
South Deals  
None Vul

♠ 9 8 5  
♥ K Q 8 5 3  
♦ 9 6 2  
♣ J 4

8  
6 6  
20

♠ 6 4 2  
♥ 9 6 4  
♦ K Q 8 3  
♣ K 7 3

♠ J T 7 3  
♥ J 7 2  
♦ T 7 5  
♣ A 9 5

N  
W E  
S

♠ A K Q  
♥ A T  
♦ A J 4  
♣ Q T 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

3NT by North

Baker Signals 18  
You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥5, you put on the ♥J, South won with the ♥A. The second trick was ♦A, ♦2, ♦3, ♦5. The third trick was ♦J, ♦6, ♦8, ♦7. South then put the ♣Q on the table.

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like South is trying to create an entry to dummy so he can cash the 2 ♦ winners? That's what he wants it to look like, hoping someone holds up their ♣A.

But don't believe Declarer, believe your partner. On the first ♦ West played the ♦2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And South must also have a third one, so he is up to some trickery with that ♣Q.

So grab your ♣A and return partner's ♥ suit.

**Deal 19**

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ T 3  
 ♥ K Q 8 5  
 ♦ 9 7 5 4  
 ♣ Q 8 4

16  
 7 0  
 17

♠ A Q J 2

♥ J T 3

♦ A K T

♣ J T 3

	N		♠ 7 5
W		♥ 9 7 4 2	
	E		♦ 8 6 2
	S		♣ 7 6 5 2

♠ K 9 8 6 4  
 ♥ A 6  
 ♦ Q J 3  
 ♣ A K 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	5NT
	6♠	All Pass	

6 ♠ by North

one more ♥. So you play your ♥K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to East's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

Baker Signals 19

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. The 2♥ bid was a transfer. The 5NT bid meant to choose either 6♠ or 6NT. North liked the suit. Partner led the ♠5, won by North's ♠Q. North pulls one more trump with his ♠A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥A on which he plays the ♥3 and East plays the ♥9. Then he leads dummy's ♥6 which you win with the ♥Q. On this trick North drops the ♥J and East the ♥2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe North is now out of ♥s then you shoud not play your ♥K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe North when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In this case an even number must be 4 which means that North has

**Deal 20**

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q T  
♥ 9 2  
♦ 8 5 2  
♣ A K T 6 3

12  
13 2  
13

♠ 6 4  
♥ A J 8  
♦ A Q J 6  
♣ 8 7 5 4

N  
W E  
S

♠ 9 8 7 5 2  
♥ T 5  
♦ 9 7 4 3  
♣ Q 2

♠ K J 3  
♥ K Q 7 6 4 3  
♦ K T  
♣ J 9

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

4♥ by South

leads a ♠ back to your ♠ A Q.

**Baker Signals 20**

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣A, East played the ♣2 and South the ♣9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣Q and ♣J. If East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣J. If East started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣Q, then