

Board 1

North Deals
None 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



♠ A Q 8 2
♥ 7 5 3
♦ Q 6 4
♣ A 9 5

♠ 6
♥ A T 8 6 4
♦ T 7 3
♣ J 8 3 2

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3 NT 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

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 3
 ♥ A T 8 6 4
 ♦ T 7 3
 ♣ J 8 3

♠ J T 9 4

♥ 7 5 3

♦ A K 9

♣ A 9 5



♠ A Q 8 2

♥ K Q 2

♦ Q 6 4

♣ K 7 6

♠ 7 6 5

♥ J 9

♦ J 8 5 2

♣ Q T 4 2

West	North	East	South
			1NT

Pass	3NT	All Pass	
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3 NT by North

Baker Holdup 6

With his 4-3-3-3 distribution North chooses not to bother with Stayman. South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♥ 6. East 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 West takes the lead, but you will be in extreme danger if East takes the lead. Since the ♠ finesse has to go into West you should not hold up.

You win with your ♥K, (keeping West in the dark about who holds the ♥Q), enter dummy with the ♦A and play the ♠J, letting it ride to West's ♠K.

West cannot play ♥s without setting up your ♥Q so he will probably exit with a ♣ which you take with the ♣K.

Play off your 6 winners and concede the last three tricks.

But it sure makes a big difference in how you play the hand.

This might have turned out even better. If West had decided to play his partner for the ♥Q, (who would have played ♥J from a holding of ♥ Q J x), you would have made an overtrick!

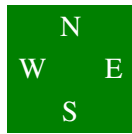
You'd feel bad on this hand if you let West hold the ♥T only to see him next lay down the ♠J.

That would be a mistake. It is almost certain that West has a 7-card ♥ suit for his preemptive opening. This is confirmed by East's lead of the ♥4, with a doubleton he would have led a higher card. So there

Board 4
East Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 3
♥ J 9 5 4
♦ 8 7 3
♣ Q 7 4 2

♠ Q T 6 2
♥ K 7 6
♦ A Q J 9
♣ 9 5



♠ 4
♥ A Q T 2
♦ K 6 4
♣ K T 8 6 3

♠ A K J 8 7 5
♥ 8 3
♦ T 5 2
♣ A J

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

4 ♠ by South

Baker Holdup 8

North's 2 ♣ cue-bid shows a limit-raise or better in ♠s. South is to play 4 ♠. West leads the ♣2. East plays the ♣K.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=1 Total = 4

You have one loser too many. If West holds either the ♥A or the ♦K this will be an easy contract, but East opened the bidding so he probably has most of the high cards. It does look like West holds the ♣Q based on his low lead and East's play to trick one.

Having gone through that thought process what is your Plan?

You will need to discard a loser on dummy's fourth ♦, but you must do so without ever letting West gain the lead since West is the defender who can lead through dummy's ♥K. And the only card that West can get the lead with is the ♣Q.

Hold-ups are usually used in notrump hands, but here you use one to prevent the Danger Hand from gaining the lead. Let East have the ♣K. He cannot play a red card without helping you so he will surely play another ♣.

Pull trumps in two rounds. Then play the ♦T and let it ride.

East will win this but he is helpless. Whatever he plays you will be able to discard a ♥ loser on dummy's ♦.

If you had taken the first ♣ trick East would have won your later ♦ finesse, put his partner on lead with the ♣Q and then swallowed up your ♥K.

Of course if West had been clever enough to lead a ♥ originally this Deal wouldn't be here.