

Deal 1
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q T 4 2

♥ 9 8 5

♦ T 9 7

♣ A 4

14
9 4
13

♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2

N
W E
S

♠ A J 5
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 8
♣ T 9 8 5 3

West North East South
1♠ 3♣ Pass 3NT

3NT by South

Baker Signals 1
You are West. The bidding has been as shown.
You led the ♠K, East played the ♠7 and South
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 East's lowest ♠, he is doing his best
to discourage you from leading the suit again.

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

If you play the ♦T East will win the ♦A and
return a ♠, allowing you to drive out South'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

♠ A 9 8
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 8
♣ T 9 8 5 3

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

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

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 5 4
♥ 6 4
♦ J 7 3
♣ A K Q 6 5 3

11
10 5
14

♠ A T 7 2
♥ K J 8 3
♦ Q 8 6
♣ J 4

N
W E
S

♠ K 8 6 3
♥ Q T
♦ T 9 5 4 2
♣ 8 2

♠ Q J 9
♥ A 9 7 5 2
♦ A K
♣ T 9 7

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

4♥ by South

Baker Signals 3

You are East. 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

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

West 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

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ T 6 4
♣ A K T 5

14
8 8
10

♠ A
♥ K T 8 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ J 8 6 2

N
W E
S

♠ Q T 8 4
♥ Q J 9
♦ K 9 5 2
♣ 9 3

♠ K 9 3
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ J 8
♣ Q 7 4

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

4♥ by South

Baker Signals 5

You are East. 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 West 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 North's ♣J to be established as a winner that South can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and South will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦K, return the ♣9 back to West'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

♠ 8 5
 ♥ A K Q 8 7 2
 ♦ K 5 4
 ♣ A Q

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

4♥ by South

played this way.

♠ J 6 4 2
 ♥ J 6 3
 ♦ A J 6
 ♣ T 7 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ 9 3
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ Q T 8 3
 ♣ J 9 6 5 2

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
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 9 6 3
♥ Q J T 7
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 8 3

6
6 9
19

♠ J 8
♥ 9 6 2
♦ K Q T 9 4
♣ 9 7 5

N	W	E
S		

♠ A T 5 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ A 7 3
♣ J 6 2

♠ Q 7 4
♥ A K 4
♦ J 6
♣ A K Q T 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

3NT by North

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 South started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

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

Baker Signals 7

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

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

When you have made your choice

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

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

Deal 8South 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

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ A 8 7 5 2
♦ 7 5 2
♣ 6 4 2

13
4 8
15

♠ K J 6
♥ J T 6 3
♦ A Q 6
♣ Q T 5

N
W E
S

♠ A Q T 5
♥ K Q 9 4
♦ K J
♣ 8 7 3

West North East South
Pass 3NT All Pass 1NT

3 NT by North

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

Baker Signals 9

You are East. 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 West to lead a ♣ if he gets into the lead. If you discard the ♣9 West 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.

South 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. West 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

N
W E
S

♠ 8
♥ A T 9 7 6 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ A 6 2

♠ 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
South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8 6 3
♥ T 6
♦ A K 8 4
♣ 8 7 2

10
8 9
13

♠ A
♥ A K J 8 7 2
♦ J T 5
♣ T 5 3

♠ K Q 7 5 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ K 9 6

N
W E
S

♠ T 9 4
♥ 9 5 3
♦ Q 7 2
♣ A Q J 4

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

2 ♥ by South

tricks. Wow.

Baker Signals 11
You are East. 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 ♦.

West 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. South plays a low ♣ from dummy, you win the ♣ J. Next you play a low ♦, taken by West with his ♦ K. West leads a ♣. Dummy plays the ♣ K, you win that, cash another ♣, then cash your ♦ Q. That first signal led to your side winning the first 6

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



♠ 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 13South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 8 7 4
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ A K 9 6
 ♣ 9 5 3

9
 10 6
 15

♠ A Q
 ♥ J T 4
 ♦ T 7 4 3
 ♣ A K J 2

♠ J 5
 ♥ A Q 9 8 7 5
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ Q T 4

N
 W E
 S

♠ T 9 6 3 2
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ Q J 8
 ♣ 8 7 6

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

4♥ by North

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

Baker Signals 13

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. West 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 West 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.

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

West	North	East	South
			1NT

Pass	3NT	All Pass	
------	-----	----------	--

3 NT 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

South Deals

None Vul

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

8	
9	5
18	

♠ 9 6 2
♥ K T 6 3
♦ Q 9 4
♣ Q J 4

N	♠ T 4
W	♥ 9
S	♦ J 8 7 2
E	♣ A 9 8 6 5 3

♠ J 8 5
♥ A Q J 8 7 5 2
♦ A K
♣ K

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

4♥ by South

Baker Signals 15

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠A, dummy played the ♠2 and you signal with your ♠T. West next plays the ♠Q and you drop the ♠4, completing your doubleton signal. West 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 West 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. South will discard his ♣K on North's extra ♦ winner.

Deal 16
South Deals
None Vul

♠ T
♥ 9 6 4 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ K Q T 6 3

8
5 13
14

♠ Q J 9 8 6 3
♥ Q 7 2
♦ Q 8 4
♣ J

♠ 2
N ♠ A K J
W ♦ J T 6 3 2
E ♣ A 9 7 2
S

♠ A K 7 5 4
♥ T 8 5
♦ A K
♣ 8 5 4

West North East South
Pass 4 ♠ All Pass

4 ♠ by North

♥ s).

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

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

Deal 17
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 5
♥ 9 7 3
♦ A 8 7
♣ A K 9 8 6 4

18
11 5
6

♠ A T 6
♥ A K Q 4
♦ Q T 3
♣ Q J 2

N
W E
S

♠ 8 3
♥ J T 6 2
♦ K J 9 5 4 2
♣ 3

♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2
♥ 8 5
♦ 6
♣ T 7 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

4 ♠ by North

Baker Signals 17

You are East. 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 West 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

N
W E
S

♠ J T 7 3
♥ J 7 2
♦ T 7 5
♣ A 9 5

♠ A K Q
♥ A T
♦ A J 4
♣ Q T 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

3 NT 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 19South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 5
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 7 6 5 2

17
0 7
16

♠ K 9 8 6 4

♥ A 6

♦ Q J 3

♣ A K 9

N
W
E
S

♠ T 3
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ Q 8 4

♠ A Q J 2
♥ J T 3
♦ A K T
♣ J T 3

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

6♠ by South

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 West's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

Baker Signals 19

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

When you have made your choice

If you believe South 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 South 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 South has one more ♥ . So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in

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
♠ K J 3
♥ K Q 7 6 4 3
♦ K T
♣ J 9

N
W
E
S

♠ 9 8 7 5 2
♥ T 5
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ Q 2

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