

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 7
♥ T 7 6 4 2
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ 7

4 13
 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

3 NT 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
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2

5
14 12
9

♠ J 7 5
♥ T 7 6 4 2
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ 7

N
W E
S

♠ A 9 8
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 8
♣ T 9 8 5 3

♠ K Q T 4 2
♥ 9 8 5
♦ T 9 7
♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3 NT by East

Baker Signals 2
You are South. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠K, North played the ♠7 and East 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 North 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 East's ♠A. When you get the lead with your ♣A you will cash your ♠ winners and North will still have the ♦A for some icing on the cake.

There IS another possibility if East is a better than average Declarer. North just might hold ♠ 9 7, giving East ♠ A J 8 5. East 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 East for the fine play.

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

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A K 5

♥ A K Q 5

♦ A T 6

♣ Q T 3

5
22 5
8
 ♠ 7 3
 ♥ J 8 4 3
 ♦ K J 9 5 2
 ♣ 8 2

 N
 W E
 S

 ♠ J 8 4
 ♥ 7 6 2
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ K J 9 6 5

 ♠ Q T 9 6 2
 ♥ T 9
 ♦ Q 7 3
 ♣ A 7 4

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

3NT by East

Baker Signals 4

You are North. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♦5, South wins the ♦Q and returns the ♦7. West 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 South 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 South is paying attention he will know to win the THIRD ♣. This will kill dummy's ♣ suit, and with it West'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

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ J 6 4 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ A J 6
♣ T 7 3

3
7 18
12

♠ 9 3
♥ 5 4
♦ Q T 8 3
♣ J 9 6 5 2

N
W E
S

♠ 8 5
♥ A K Q 8 7 2
♦ K 5 4
♣ A Q

♠ A K Q T 7
♥ T 9
♦ 9 7 2
♣ K 8 4

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

4♥ by East

Baker Signals 6

You are South. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠A, North plays the ♠9, East the ♠5. You assume North has signaled you to continue ♠s, so you play the ♠Q. On this trick North plays the ♠3 and East 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, North won't bother ruffing, East WILL ruff and dummy's ♠J will be established as a winner.

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

Deal 7
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 9 6 3
♥ Q J T 7
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 8 3

6
6 9
19

♠ Q 7 4
♥ A K 4
♦ J 6
♣ A K Q T 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

3 NT 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.

♠ 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

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 8

West Deals
None Vul

♠ J T 4
♥ A K
♦ J T 9 5
♣ A K Q J

9
19 7
5

♠ A 6 5
♥ Q T 6 4
♦ K 7 2
♣ T 5 2

N
W E
S

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ Q 6
♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ 8 7 2
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ A 8 4 3
♣ 8 3

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

3NT by East

Baker Signals 8

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

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

When you have made your choice

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

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

Deal 9North 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

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

North Deals
Both Vul

♠ K J 7
♥ Q J 2
♦ Q T 3
♣ K T 7 5

8
12 18
2

♠ 8
♥ A T 9 7 6 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ A 6 2

N
W E
S

♠ 6 5 3
♥ 4
♦ J 8 6 4 2
♣ J 9 4 3

♠ A Q T 9 4 2
♥ K 8 5
♦ A K
♣ Q 8

West	North	East	South
3 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	Pass
	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

4 ♠ by East

Baker Signals 10

You are South. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥4, North 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

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K Q J 7 5 2

♥ 9 5

♦ K 5

♣ A T 4

11
13 10
 6

♠ 9 6 4

♥ A K 7 2

♦ A 8 6 3

♣ 9 5


 ♠ 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

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

4 ♠ by West

Baker Signals 12

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

When you have made your choice

South'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 South 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 South with the ♥J.

South next plays the ♦Q and however West 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

East Deals

None Vul

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

8	♠ J 9 6 5 2
8 17	♥ A Q T 6
7	♦ 9 5 4 2
	♣ -

N	
W	E
S	

♠ A K Q 3
♥ K 9 8
♦ A J T
♣ T 8 5

West	North	East	South
		1NT	
3NT	All Pass		Pass

3 NT by West

Baker Signals 14

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

When you have made your choice

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

North 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 North 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
W E
S

♠ T 4

♥ 9
♦ J 8 7 2

♣ 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 4♥

All Pass

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

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A K 7 5 4

♥ T 8 5

♦ A K

♣ 8 5 4

5
14 8
13

♠ T
♥ 9 6 4 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ K Q T 6 3

N
W E
S

♠ 2
♥ A K J
♦ J T 6 3 2
♣ A 9 7 2

♠ Q J 9 8 6 3

♥ Q 7 2
♦ Q 8 4
♣ J

West
1 ♠

North
Pass

East
4 ♠

South
All Pass

4 ♠ by East

to the higher suit (choosing between ♦ s and ♥ s).

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

Baker Signals 16

You are South. 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

North 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 North to switch

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

N
W E
S

♠ 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

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

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

6	9 8 5	K Q 8 5 3	9 6 2
8 20	♦ 9 6 2	♣ J 4	
6			

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

3NT by West

Baker Signals 18

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

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like East 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 ♦ South played the ♦2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And East 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

North Deals

Both Vul

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

13	9 8 7 5 2
13	♥ T 5
12	♦ 9 7 4 3
2	♣ Q 2

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

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

4♥ by West

leads a ♠ back to your ♠ A Q.

Baker Signals 20

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

When you have made your choice

On first thought South'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 South started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣J. If South 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