

**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

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

N  
W E  
S

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

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

|      |       |          |       |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East     | South |
|      | 1NT   | Pass     | 2NT   |
| Pass | 3NT   | All Pass |       |

3NT by North

just one ♠s, you make it. West may win the ♣A and have a fourth ♠ to lead, you make it. West may win the ♣A and be out of ♠s, you make it.

If you win the first or second ♠ trick you will fail. When you attack ♣s, West will win the ♣A and play a ♠.

Holding up twice can never hurt, and in this case it is the only way to make the contract.

**Baker 100NT 1**

Partner's 2NT bid invites you to bid game if you have a maximum hand. Your 17 points is certainly a maximum so you bid 3NT.

Will you take your ♠A immediately? or at trick 2? or trick 3?

You need 3 more tricks, and they must come from ♣s. So you must drive out the ♣A. The problem is that when the defenders win the ♣A they may also take 4 ♠ tricks.

While you cannot guarantee the contract you can at least give yourself a better chance by holding up your ♠A on the first trick, and also on West's ♠ continuation. You win the third ♠ with your ♠A.

Now you drive out the ♣A. There are four possibilities: East may win the ♣A and cash two more ♠s, down 1. East may win the ♣A and cash

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If you win the first or second ♠ trick you will fail. When you attack ♣s, West will win the ♣A and play a ♠.

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**Board 2**

East Deals

N-S Vul

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

♠ K 7

♥ J T 9 8

♦ J 9 7 2

♣ Q 9 5

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | N |   |
| W |   | E |
|   | S |   |

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

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

|      |       |      |          |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| West | North | East | South    |
|      |       | 1NT  | Pass     |
| 2♥   | Pass  | 2♠   | All Pass |

2♠ by East

time).

You can make the contract if you just force out their big trumps. But there is another tempting possibility. You could enter dummy with the ♦K and play the ♥4, finessing South for the ♥K. If the finesse is successful you could then discard dummy's ♣ loser on the ♥A.

Should you or shouldn't you?

The reward for this play would be an overtrick. The price of failure would be going down in a cold contract. So obviously, at rubber bridge, you would be foolish to take such a risk. Playing Duplicate though, you might consider it. But let's say you decide to play safe.

Win the ♣A and play a trump. As soon as you get in play another trump. The defenders will no doubt take their ♣ winner when they get in. South will no doubt win one of those high trump tricks, and he MAY lead a ♥ when he gets in. There you will be, trying to decide again whether to finesse . . .

As you see, the ♥K is in the wrong place this time, but might be right the next time.

Usually you should not risk your contract for the sake of an overtrick.

**Baker 100NT 2**

In the pre-transfer days you would have bid 2♠ with this hand and partner would have passed. Now you make partner bid the ♠s first by saying 2♥. Partner dutifully replies 2♠. What do you say?

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You say pass.

The contract would be 2♠ played by East.

To make West the declarer ROTATE.

West plays 2♠. North leads the ♣2. South plays the ♣Q which you take with your ♣A.

Count losers in the long-trump hand, (dummy this

**Board 3**

South Deals

None Vul

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

♠ J 4

♥ A 9 8 5

♦ J T 7 3

♣ K 8 2

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | N |   |
|  | W | E |
|  | S |   |

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

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

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

3 NT by South

at trick #3.

Now you drive out the ♦ A. If West has it and also started with 5 ♠ s you will go down. But if East has the ♦ A you will make the contract no matter how ♠ s split.

If you win the second ♠ East will still have a ♠ when he wins the ♦ A.

But if you hold up your ♠ K East will have no ♠ to put his partner in with.

**Baker 100NT 3**

Partner's 2♣ is Stayman convention. With no 4-card Major suit your response is 2♦. Partner now bids 2NT. What do you say?

Partner's 2♣ is Stayman convention. With no 4-card Major suit your response is 2♦. Partner now bids 2NT. What do you say?

The 2NT bid is invitational, asking you to bid game with a maximum, pass with a minimum. You have 17 points so you bid 3NT.

You put on dummy's ♠ J, but East wins the ♠ A then continues with the ♠ 9. Do you play your ♠ K now?

You need 3 more tricks, and they must come from ♦ s. So you must drive out the ♦ A. The problem is that when the defenders win the ♦ A they may also take 4 ♠ tricks.

This is another case where you should hold up. Allow EW to win the second trick and take your ♠ K only

**Board 4**

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ Q 9

♥ 8 4 3

♦ K J T 8 2

♣ J T 4

♠ J 7 4 3

♥ K J 9 5

♦ Q 9 5

♣ 8 5

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | N |   |
| W |   | E |
|   | S |   |

♠ K 8 5

♥ A 2

♦ A 7 3

♣ A K Q 7 2

♠ A T 6 2

♥ Q T 7 6

♦ 6 4

♣ 9 6 3

West

2NT

North

Pass

East

3NT

South

All Pass

3 NT by East

South led fourth down he must have only a 4-card suit since there are no cards he could have lower than the ♥5. With ♥s splitting 4-4 a holdup would do no good, and isn't necessary anyway.

So take the ♥A. Then what?

You COULD try the ♦ finesse. Even if it loses it would establish several ♦ winners. However, if the defenders win just 1 ♦ trick they will quickly grab their 3 ♥ tricks and their ♠A and put you down 1.

This is why it is important to make a Plan which includes a Winner count. You need just one additional winner and all you have to do to get it is play a ♠ honor.

When you can see all four hands, including the location of the ♦Q, it kind of makes you wished you had finessed and gotten all those overtricks.

Good Bridge players like to take tricks, but they are not greedy.

**Baker 100NT 4**

Even if you wanted to show your ♦ suit how would you do it? If you bid 3♦ it would be a transfer and if you bid 4♦ you would have bypassed 3NT, your probable best contract.

But you didn't want to bid them anyway, you just wanted to bid 3NT, right?

The contract would be 3NT played by West.

To make East the declarer ROTATE.

South leads ♥5, North plays the ♥Q.

The first thing you need to decide is whether to hold up on the ♥.

First decide the holdup question. South led the ♥5 and you can see the ♥4, ♥3 and ♥2. Assuming