

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 3
 ♥ J T 9 8 2
 ♦ Q T 2
 ♣ 9 7 4

♠ K J 4

♥ Q 6

♦ 8 5 3

♣ J T 6 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 8 7 5 2

♥ K 4

♦ K 9 7

♣ Q 8 5

♠ A Q 9

♥ A 7 5 3

♦ A J 6 4

♣ A K

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

3 NT by South

necessary) to establish the ♣ suit. Win whatever red card they play next with dummy's Ace. Play the ♠Q to your ♠K and cash your established ♣(s). Dummy's other red Ace will be your ninth trick.

You'd have to be very careless to miss this one.

Baker Entries 6

North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♠5.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing two winners you will naturally consider your 5-card ♣ suit. After unblocking the ♣ A K you will need two entries to your hand; one to lead the ♣J and drive out the ♣Q, then a second to enjoy your good ♣s.

The ♠ suit will provide one entry easily, but should you depend on the ♥Q for the second entry?

No, for two reasons. Firstly the ♥Q only gives you a 50% chance of being an entry. But more importantly, you already have your two sure entries in ♠s. As long as you take the first trick with dummy's ♠A both your ♠K and ♠J can be entries.

Win the ♠A. Play off dummy's ♣ A K. Lead the ♠9 to your ♠J. Play your ♣J (and another one if

Board 2
North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 8 5
♥ K 7 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ Q T 7 5

♠ T 7
♥ 8 6 5
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ J 9 4 2



♠ K J 9 2
♥ Q T 9 3
♦ T 9 5 2
♣ 6

♠ A 6 4 3
♥ A J 4
♦ A J
♣ A K 8 3

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

3 NT by North

You are sure to have a ♣ entry to dummy's ♦s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

You probably would have played the hand the same way you just did, unblock ♦s, then play ♣ A K and a low ♣ toward the ♣ J 9 trying to get a ♣ entry to dummy.

It is only because the ♣ opening lead gives you the chance for a Cheap-Trick that you are tempted to go wrong.

Baker Entries 7

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♣5. You play low from dummy and East plays the ♣6.

Winners: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 1 ♦ = 4? ♣ = 3 Total = 9

Although you have 4 ♦ winners, getting to the last couple might not be so easy. You can make 3 ♦ tricks simply by winning your ♦ A, then overtaking your ♦ J with dummy's ♦ Q. But you need that fourth ♦ winner. Can you get it?

Sure you can, by creating an entry in ♣s. It is likely from the opening lead, (and East's play of a small card), that West has led from ♣ Q T 7 5. If you win the first trick cheaply then you will still make your ♣ A K for three ♣ tricks in all.

So don't win cheaply, win the first trick with the ♣ A. Then unblock your ♦ A J. Next play ♣ K. (on which East discards), and a small ♣ toward dummy's ♣ J 9.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K 7 4 2

♥ Q T 8 6

♦ T 7

♣ K 9 2

♠ A 6

♥ K 5 2

♦ K Q J 5

♣ A Q J 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J T 9 5

♥ A 9 3

♦ 9 8 3

♣ T 8

♠ 8 3

♥ J 7 4

♦ A 6 4 2

♣ 7 6 5 3

West

North

East

South

Pass

2NT

Pass

3NT

All Pass

3 NT by South

play the ♦J to dummy's ♦A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦5 to dummy's ♦6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Then your chance of success goes way down. You would have to find West with the doubleton ♣K.

Baker Entries 8

North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♠Q. West plays the ♠K, then the ♠2 when you hold up.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=0 ♦=4 ♣=1 Total = 6

You are going to have to be pretty lucky to make this contract. You cannot touch the ♥ suit because a defender would take the ♥A and it would start raining ♠s.

So you will have to get 3 extra ♣ winners, which means the ♣ finesse absolutely MUST work.

In addition to lucky, you are going to have to be pretty good, too. You will surely have to finesse the ♣s at least twice; that means you need two dummy entries. Can you find them?

Maybe in ♦s. Play the ♦K, then ♦Q, watching the defender's cards carefully. When both follow twice you know there is only a single ♦ left out, so you

play the ♦J to dummy's ♦A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦5 to dummy's ♦6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 6 2
♥ Q 9 8
♦ Q J T 2
♣ T 3

♠ A K Q 7 3

♥ 7 6 4

♦ 8 5 3

♣ 9 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 9 5 4

♥ K J T 3

♦ 9 7 4

♣ 6 2

♠ -

♥ A 5 2

♦ A K 6

♣ A K Q J 7 5 4

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

6♣ by South

enter dummy with the ♣9. This play is guaranteed to give you the entry and is the one you should choose.

When you are missing 4 cards the probability of a 3-1 split is about 50%.

But the singleton can be any one of four cards - in this case it can be the ♣T, ♣6, ♣3 or ♣2. So the chance of one of the opponents holding specifically the singleton ♣T is only one-fourth of 50%, about 12.5%.

Baker Entries 9

South is to play 6♣. West leads the ♦Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 3

Partner's hand didn't turn out to be what you hoped for, you had in mind maybe the ♥K and ♦Q.

But this is what you got. First, be thankful West led a ♦ rather than a ♥. Second, see if you can find a way to fight yourself over to dummy and those three beautiful ♠s.

You have two possibilities for a ♣ entry, but you can only try one of them as you will see.

You can play a high ♣ and hope somebody plays the singleton ♣T. Then your ♣9 would be an entry. If this works you would probably make all 13 tricks, but the chances are very slim.

You can play a low ♣ to dummy's ♣8. Assuming a defender takes the ♣T you can win his return and

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q T 6 5 2
 ♥ 6 5 2
 ♦ A Q 7
 ♣ 9 4

♠ 8 3

♥ A K J 9 8 7

♦ K T 4 3

♣ A

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K J 7 4
 ♥ 3
 ♦ J 9 8 2
 ♣ T 6 2

♠ 9

♥ Q T 4

♦ 6 5

♣ K Q J 8 7 5 3

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

4 ♥ by South

plays a trump or a ♣ the result will be the same. The defense can get one ♦ trick if they take it right now, but you still make your contract.

Baker Entries 10

North is to play 4 ♥. East leads the ♠ A, then ♠ K.

Losers: ♠ = 1 ♥ = 0 ♦ = 3? ♣ = 0 Total = 4?

This is the kind of hand that can get really messy if you aren't careful. You could ruff the ♠, then try to ruff some ♦s, but the defense can prevent you by leading trumps when you give up the ♦ tricks.

All in all a much better plan is to use dummy's ♣ suit after you unblock the Ace. The only flaw with that idea is that when you ruff the ♠, unblock the ♣A, then play two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, there will still be a trump left out. And the defender might ruff a ♣ before you can take the discards you need. Do you see a way around this?

Do NOT ruff the second ♠ in dummy, just discard a ♦. If East plays a third ♠ you will ruff in your hand, then unblock the ♣A, then pull trumps in 3 rounds ending in dummy. And run all those ♣ tricks. If East