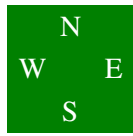


**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

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



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

♠ K T 4  
♥ T 6  
♦ 7 5 3  
♣ T 8 6 4 3

West	North	East	South
	4♥	All Pass	

4♥ by North

possibility is for East to hold the ♠ A and you lead through him to make the ♠ K a winner. That's a 50% possibility.

But you can improve on that a little bit. If East holds both the ♠ Q J you could make a deep finesse of dummy's ♠ T and West would have to play his ♠ A to win the trick. And if it didn't work and West won with a lesser ♠ you would still have time to play toward the ♠ K.

Win the ♦, pull trumps, lead the ♠ 3 to dummy's ♠ T.

You must modify the Plan a little bit. Now your only hope is that East still holds the ♠ J. So you win the next trick in your hand and lead a ♠ toward dummy's ♠ T. This time East is caught. He plays the ♠ J hoping you had a doubleton, but you still have a ♠ to get to the now high ♠ T.

Baker 100Deals 97

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

One school of thought says to open 2♣ with a hand that is within one trick of game, even though the point count is below 22.

Another school of thought says to go ahead and bid the game, hoping to keep the opponents away from any competition.

Today you take the second and bid 4♥.

North plays 4♥. East leads the ♦ Q.

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

You are going to lose the ♣ for sure, so you need to find a way to hold the ♠ losers to 2. The obvious

**Board 2**  
East Deals  
N-S Vul

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

♠ J T 5 4 2  
♥ K 7  
♦ Q 5 4  
♣ K J 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

West	North	East	South
4♥	All Pass	3♥	Pass

4♥ by West

Baker 100Deals 98  
You are East and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You are very weak. But you are also not vulnerable.

So with 5 playing tricks you leap to 3♥. Partner raises to 4♥ and you pass.

East plays 4♥. South leads ♠A, then ♥8.

Losers: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 0 : ♣ 1 : Total = 4

You've already lost 1 ♠, you can't escape the ♣ and it looks like the ♥ is unavoidable also. So that means you can't afford to lose that second ♠.

If you play dummy's ♥4 North will win the ♥K and play another ♥. You will lose that second ♠ and go down 1.

Instead you should rise with dummy's ♥A, play ♦A, ♦K and then a small ♦ which you ruff. Now play your ♠9 and ruff with dummy's last trump.

But you don't want to get into the habit of doing what is USUALLY good without thinking through the consequences.

**Board 3**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 5 3

♥ K 9

♦ 9 6 3

♣ J T 4

♠ A J 6

♥ Q 7 3

♦ Q 8 5 2

♣ 7 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K T

♥ 8 5 2

♦ A 7 4

♣ A K Q 9 8

♠ 8 4 2

♥ A J T 6 4

♦ K J T

♣ 5 3

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

3 NT by South

♥s. Your best chance of getting an extra trick lies in the ♠ suit.

It is almost certain that West holds the ♠Q. Of course defenders sometimes don't lead according to the guidelines, but if East had the ♠Q he would likely have played it at the first trick. In addition, the Rule of 11 tells you there were 6 cards in the North, East and South hands higher than the ♠5. You can account for all of them, so West must have the ♠Q. In that case you can assure the contract by winning the first trick with the ♠K rather than the ♠T. In this way you will be able to gain a trick by finessing West for the ♠Q. It's true that if you won with the ♠T you would still have both the ♠K and ♠A remaining, but you wouldn't have the dummy entry you needed.

Notice how strange this game can be. If your holding was ♠ K 2 rather than ♠ K T you would have had no difficulty coming up with the correct play. But the fact that you can win a cheap trick with the ♠T tries to lure you into making an inferior play.

Baker 100Deals 99

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

With a balanced, 17 point hand you open 1NT.

Partner responds 2NT. What do you bid?

You were invited to bid 3NT if you have a maximum opener. With 17 points you accept the invitation.

South plays 3NT. West leads ♠5. You put on dummy's ♠6 and East plays the ♠8.

Winner count: ♠ 2 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 5 : Total = 8

The good news is that they didn't lead a ♥. The bad news is that if you give up the lead they probably will.

Assuming the ♣s behave you need to get one more winner. It's possible you could lead toward dummy's ♦Q but even if it works they would probably attack

**Board 4**

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A K Q 5 3  
 ♥ A Q 7 3  
 ♦ 5 4  
 ♣ A 8

♠ J T 2

♥ J 8 5 4

♦ T 9 8

♣ K 9 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 6 4

♥ K 6 2

♦ Q 6 2

♣ J 7 5 3

♠ 8 7

♥ T 9

♦ A K J 7 3

♣ Q T 6 2

West

1 ♠

4 ♠

North

Pass

All Pass

East

2 ♠

South

Pass

4 ♠ by West

Baker 100Deals 100

You are West and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You have a nice hand, but can only open 1 ♠.

Partner raises to 2 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner has 6-10 points, you have 20 points.

The math works so you bid 4 ♠.

West plays 4 ♠. North leads the ♦ T, you cover and South plays the three high ♦ s.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 1 : Total = 4

To start with, you ruff the third ♦. You cannot avoid the ♣ loser, so you might think that ♥ s must break evenly to give you a fourth ♥ trick. In fact, there is a chance that you might ruff the fourth ♥.

Play exactly two rounds of trumps with the ♠ A and ♠ K. Then play ♥ K, ♥ A and ♥ Q. If both defenders follow to three leads your fourth ♥ is good so you pull the last trump. If somebody shows out on the third lead and does not ruff then play your last ♥ and ruff in dummy. Return to your hand with the ♣ A and pull trumps.

By pulling exactly 2 rounds of trumps first you can also succeed in the case where ♥ s split 4-2 and the defender with the doubleton ♥ also has a doubleton trump.