

**Board 1**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 9 8 4  
♥ Q 8 2  
♦ Q T  
♣ K J 9 7

♠ J 5

♥ A K 7 4 3

♦ 8 4 3

♣ 6 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ A K 3  
♥ T 6  
♦ A 6 5 2  
♣ A 8 5 4

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

2 NT by North

to it.

So you win the first trick with your ♠K, then play a ♥, ducking in dummy.

An opponent will win the ♥, but whatever they return you win one of your Aces. Then play your last ♥ to dummy. If the suit splits you will make 4 ♥ tricks to go with your 4 other top honors.

But if you had not made the correct plan your good fortune would have been wasted.

**Baker 100NT 21**

Partner's 2♦ bid is a transfer so you bid 2♥. Partner now bids 2NT. What do you say?

Partner's 2♦ bid is a transfer so you bid 2♥. Partner now bids 2NT. What do you say?

Partner is describing an invitational hand (9-10 points) with a 5-card ♥ suit. With a bare 15 points and doubleton ♥ you just pass.

You try dummy's ♠J hopefully, but East puts on the ♠Q.

You must find two more winners. And you have very little to work with. In fact, the only real chance you have is to establish dummy's ♥ suit.

You must find the ♥s split 3-3. Even then, with no entries in dummy outside the ♥ suit you cannot afford to play ♥ A K followed by a third one. True, the suit would be established, but you could never get

**Board 2**

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A T 8 6 4

♥ 8 3

♦ 7 2

♣ K T 6 5

♠ K Q 9

♥ K 7 5 4

♦ K T

♣ A 8 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 3

♥ J T 9 2

♦ J 9 8 4

♣ Q J 9

♠ 7 5 2

♥ A Q 6

♦ A Q 6 5 3

♣ 7 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

3NT by North

you can prevent West from getting the lead. So win the first trick with the ♠ K. Notice that by winning with the ♠ K you keep East in the dark as to whether you or West has the ♠ Q.

You need just one more trick, and either red suit might split 3-3. So is that your plan? Lead out red winners and hope?

Truthfully, that wouldn't be a terrible plan. The chance of a 3-3 split in a suit is about 36%. But since you need either of two 36% chances that comes to almost 60% (if you aren't Math oriented don't worry about it, you can trust me).

There's a safer approach though; remember you only need 4 ♦ tricks, not 5.

There is a wonderful "safety play" that will practically guarantee your contract. Enter dummy with a ♥, then play a small ♦ toward your hand and finesse with your ♦ T! East may win with the ♦ J, but even if he does he is the Safe Hand and cannot play a ♠ without giving you a trick. And whatever else he could play you would win and make 4 ♦ tricks. In the actual Deal the ♦ finesse actually works and you make all 5 tricks in the suit.

**Baker 100NT 22**

You don't have enough points to be thinking about slam and you don't particularly want to play 5♦. So you bid 3NT and everybody passes.

The contract would be 3NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3NT. East leads the ♠ 6; West plays the ♠ J.

Your immediate problem is whether or not to hold up. ? ? ?

There is some merit in a holdup. West is likely to have just 2 ♠s, so a holdup would exhaust his cards in the suit. If he later got the lead he would have no ♠s. On the other hand, West might well switch to ♣s, and that would certainly be unwelcome. Finally, if you do win the first ♠ you have another stopper if

**Board 3**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

♠ K J 7 3

♥ A 6 3

♦ K J 9 2

♣ T 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q T 2

♥ 8 5

♦ Q 6 4

♣ J 9 6 3 2

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

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

4 ♠ by South

A better plan would be to shun the trump Queen finesse entirely. Play the ♠K, then ♠A. If the ♠Q falls then pull the last trump and you are home free.

If the ♠Q DOESN'T fall, play your other two ♥ winners. When East discards on the last ♥ you exit with a small trump to a defender's ♠Q.

If West wins the ♠ you will just have to depend on the ♦ finesse. But if East takes the trick he will be endplayed, having to give you a ruff/sluff in ♣s, or lead into dummy's ♦ K J.

**Baker 100NT 23**

With both Majors, the correct response to Stayman is 2♥. Partner now bids 3NT. What do you say?

With both Majors, the correct response to Stayman is 2♥. Partner now bids 3NT. What do you say?

Partner denies having 4 ♥s so obviously he must hold 4 ♠s. You therefore correct the contract to 4♠, your known 4-4 Major fit.

West takes two top ♣s, then leads the ♥J.

There are lots of possibilities for getting rid of one loser. The ♠Q might drop, or she might be in the West hand, finessable. The ♥s might split 3-3, providing for the discard of a ♦ loser. West might hold the ♦Q so that finesse works.

Suppose you win the ♥ in your hand and try the ♠ finesse. If East has the ♠Q you will then have to find the ♥s splitting, which is not likely, or the ♦Q in the West hand.

**Board 4**

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ A T 9 8 3

♥ 9 8 3

♦ K J 5

♣ 6 2

♠ K 6 4

♥ K 5

♦ A 9 7 6 2

♣ A Q 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 5 2

♥ J T 6 4

♦ Q T 4

♣ K 8 3

♠ J 7

♥ A Q 7 2

♦ 8 3

♣ J T 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

## Baker 100NT 24

With 9 points you are in the game-invitational range. And with a 4-card ♥ suit you should use Stayman. You bid 2♣ and partner says 2♦. What is your next bid?

With 9 points you are in the game-invitational range. And with a 4-card ♥ suit you should use Stayman. You bid 2♣ and partner says 2♦. What is your next bid?

You are still in game-invitational range, but now you invite partner with 2NT. He replies 3NT and that ends the bidding.

The contract would be 3NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3NT. East leads the ♠T. You cross your fingers and put on dummy's ♠J. No good, West covers with the ♠Q and you are forced to take your ♠K at the first trick.

Not only do you need 3 more winners, you need to get them without losing the lead because the instant you lose the lead East will take all his ♠ winners. You can HOPE that will only be 3 of them but you can't depend on it.

The ♣ suit is your only hope. If West holds the ♣K you can finesse him out of it. However, if he has ♣K x x and refuses to cover your ♣J, you will have to have a second entry to dummy to cash the good ♣s.

As it happens, you do have two entries, the ♥A and ♥Q! You just have to sacrifice your ♥K to use them both. At trick 2 play your small ♥ to the ♥Q. Play the ♣J, letting it ride when West plays low. Play a small ♣ to your ♣Q. Play the ♣A, dropping West's ♣K. And finally, play your ♥K to dummy's ♥A so you can enjoy cashing those two good ♣s.

You sacrifice one sure ♥ winner to create a second dummy entry which creates two ♣ winners.