

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 5 3
♥ 6 5 2
♦ Q T 5 2
♣ K Q 9 3

♠ A T
♥ A K Q J 9
♦ K 4 3
♣ 7 5 2

N
W
E
S

♠ K Q J 7 4
♥ T 3
♦ J 8 7
♣ J T 4

♠ 9 8 6 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ A 9 6
♣ A 8 6

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

4♥ by South

HELP SUIT GAME TRY. Partner has 8 points and the ♣A and decides that is enough to bid game.

North plays 4♥. East leads the ♠K.

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

You win the ♠A and pull trumps in three rounds. You need to manufacture one winner and you can see right off the bat that it cannot be manufactured in ♦s or ♣s. However, you CAN set up the ♠8.

Lead the ♠T. East must win with his ♠J. Let's say he plays a ♣. Win with dummy's ♣A and play the ♠9, discarding a small ♣. East will take his ♠Q and cash a ♣ trick, but then must let you back in. You enter dummy with the ♦A and discard your ♦ loser on the good ♠8.

You cannot make T tricks unless East's opening lead is a ♠.

Baker 100Deals 49

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

Your first bid is easy, you say 1♥. But what do you say after partner's 2♥ response?

You have 18 points and partner has 6-T. Doing the math, you total 24-28.

You want to make a bid that will tell partner to bid game if he has 9-T, but will stop at 3♥ if he only has 6-7. Lots of players will bid 3♥ with this hand to make just that invitation. There's nothing wrong with that bid.

But there is an improvement. Bid 3♣ instead. Partner knows you aren't showing him a ♣ suit, why would you do that after agreeing on ♥s? What it means is "Partner I'm inviting you to bid the game if you have maximum, but if your decision is close decide based on ♣s, the suit I could use help in." It is called a

Board 2

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A J 6 4

♥ 7 5

♦ A K 7 4 2

♣ 6 2

♠ T

♥ K 9 8 3

♦ Q J 9 5

♣ Q T 7 4

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ K Q 9 8 7 5 2
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ A 8

♠ 3
 ♥ Q J T 6 2
 ♦ T 8
 ♣ K J 9 5 3

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

6 ♠ by East

Baker 100Deals 50

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

You don't quite have the strength for a jump-shift, and in any case sometimes it is better to proceed slowly. So you respond 1♠, knowing partner must bid again.

He does bid again, surprising you when he says 2♠. What do you bid?

All of a sudden your hand has become gigantic. Never mind points, you have only 5 possible losers in your hand and partner has opened the bidding. Surely he can take care of a few of them.

You want to try for slam. DO NOT BID BLACKWOOD! With two quick losers in ♦s you would not know what to do if Partner showed only one Ace. You wouldn't know whether the defense could take the first two ♦ tricks or not. A better approach is to use a control bid.

So you bid 3♣. Partner will absolutely know that you aren't bidding a ♣ suit, he knows you have already agreed on ♠s. He will take you to be showing first round control in ♣s, probably the ♣A.

Partner bids 3♦. What do you bid next?

Partner's 3♦ is a control bid showing the ♦A. Do not even consider that he is trying to get back to ♦s, you both know that your suit is ♠s.

NOW you use Blackwood, knowing you are not in danger of losing two quick ♦s.

Partner replies 5♥, showing two Aces. What do you bid?

Your side has all the Aces but don't get greedy. Remember that partner made a minimum bid at his second turn. He couldn't have two Aces and three Kings.

So you bid the small slam.

East plays 6♠. South leads the ♥Q.

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

Too bad partner didn't have either ♥K or ♣K. But since he didn't you will just have to establish the ♦ suit.

You pull trumps in one round with your ♠K. Play ♦ A K, then ruff a ♦. If both defenders follow then both dummy's ♦s are good and you will make 7. However, it is more likely that ♦s will split 4-2, in which case you return to dummy with the ♠J and ruff the fourth ♦. Back to dummy with the ♠A and play the now-established ♦ 7, discarding either your ♥ or ♣ loser.

In this hand you could not be defeated unless the ♦s split 5-1.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q J T 6
♥ 8
♦ K J 9 4
♣ J T 8 5

♠ 9 2
♥ K Q J T 6 3
♦ 8 3
♣ 9 6 2

N
W
E
S

♠ 8 7 5
♥ 9 7 4
♦ Q T 5
♣ A Q 7 3

♠ A K 4 3
♥ A 5 2
♦ A 7 6 2
♣ K 4

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥

4♥ by North

holds ♣A, or you can ruff it in dummy.

Suppose you try to combine both chances. Win the ♠K, then play a small ♥ to your hand. Lead a ♣ and play dummy's ♣K. West takes the ♣A and plays another trump which you win in your hand. You play another ♣ but West wins this one also and leads another trump, removing dummy's last hope of ruffing a ♣. Down 1.

Instead you could give up on the idea of leading toward the ♣K and just lead a ♣ from dummy at trick 2. The defenders can win and lead a trump, but you play a second ♣. They win this also but even if they lead a trump you can still ruff your third ♣ in dummy and make the game.

You can also see that leading a ♥ back to your hand at trick 2 is a bad idea.

But did you see there is another way to reach your hand? You could play ♠A then ruff a ♠. This runs the small risk that West started with a singleton ♠.

Baker 100Deals 51

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

Wow! Partner opens with a 2-bid and you have all of this?

Don't get carried away, it was a WEAK 2-bid. So even though you have 19 points partner has only 6-11. But even though it is possible that the total only comes to 25 you bid the game anyway, figuring that it will probably be at least 26.

South would play 4♥.

North plays 4♥. East leads the ♠Q.

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

There are two ways to get rid of one of those ♣ losers. You can lead up to the ♣K, hoping that East

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ Q 9 2
♥ 8 5 4
♦ A 6 3
♣ 7 5 4 2

♠ 7 5 3

♥ Q T 7 6

♦ K Q J

♣ Q T 8

N
W
E
S

♠ K J T 8 4
♥ A K 3 2
♦ 9 5
♣ A 6

♠ A 6
♥ J 9
♦ T 8 7 4 2
♣ K J 9 3

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

3 ♠ by East

Losers: ♠ 1 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 1 : Total = 5

The ♦ loser, the ♣ loser and the Ace of trumps are unavoidable. One ♥ loser is also unavoidable, but the second one can be ruffed in dummy. You cannot afford to play a single trump.

Win the ♦ A and play ♥ A, ♥ K, ♥ 2. The defenders will win this. If your ♥ 3 happened to set up then you won't have to ruff it, but more likely the ♥'s split 4-2. The defenders may now take a ♦ winner, or they may lead ♠ A and another ♠. But they cannot stop you from ruffing your fourth ♥ with dummy's ♠ Q or ♠ 9.

In that case you must be sure to ruff the fourth ♥ with the ♠ Q or the ♠ 9. If North wants to over-ruff it will be with the ♠ A which you must lose anyway.

Look at what would have happened if you had led a trump at trick 2. North could have won the ♠ A and played another ♠. Then, when South took the third ♥ he could lead his last ♠ and dummy would have no trump to ruff the final ♥ with.

Baker 100Deals 52

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

With 6 points you must respond. And with 3 ♠s you can support partner's suit.

You respond 2♠ and partner bids 3♦. What do you bid?

Partner's 3♦ bid is a Help Suit Game Try. He is inviting you to bid game if you have a good 2♠ response, particularly if you can help him in ♦s.

Although have the ♦ help you have a bare minimum response. So you return to 3 ♠ which partner passes.

West would play 3♠.

East plays 3♠. South leads the ♦ K.