

**Board 1**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 4 3 2

♥ A 8 2

♦ K J 5

♣ Q T 7 4

♠ A 7 5

♥ J 7

♦ A T 8 6 3

♣ A K 5



♠ K T 8 6

♥ 9 6 3

♦ Q 7 2

♣ J 9 2

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

3 NT by North

the good ♥s.

**Baker Establishment 17**

South's 3♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♠6, you play dummy's ♠9 and West contributes the ♠2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 5

The math is easy - you need 4 ♥ tricks. And you should be able to manage that by driving out the ♥A. But the defenders will probably hold up one or two rounds when you play on ♥s, so you must have an outside entry to dummy.

The ♠ Q J will provide that entry IF you make sure to win the first trick with your ♠A as an unblocking move. If you don't do so then East will be able to keep you out of the dummy and away from those good ♥s.

But if you win the first trick with the ♠A, then dummy's ♠ Q J will provide a guaranteed entry to

**Board 2**

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K J 4

♥ Q J T 5 3

♦ 7 5 4

♣ 8 2

♠ 8 6 3

♥ A 8 2

♦ Q J 9

♣ J T 7 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A T 5

♥ 9 7

♦ A K 6 3

♣ A K 9 5

♠ Q 9 7 2

♥ K 6 4

♦ T 8 2

♣ Q 6 3

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

3NT  
All Pass

3 NT by West

hurt you because you have TWO ♠ entries, the ♠J by a finesse and the ♠K.

So the ♠ finesse is an odds-on play to get a second dummy entry.

**Baker Establishment 18**

East is to play 3NT. South leads the ♠2, you play dummy's ♠4 and North plays the ♠8.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing just two more winners it looks straightforward to establish dummy's ♥ suit. Suppose you win the ♠T and play the ♥9. If the defenders win this trick you are home free. You win their ♠ return with your ♠A, then continue ♥s to drive out their last stopper while you still have the ♠K as a dummy entry.

This won't work against good defenders, who will hold up on the first ♥ trick and win the second. Then when they continue ♠s you won't have another ♥ to return to dummy, so while you can use the ♠K as an entry to establish the ♥s you will never get back to use the good ones.

Instead you should win the first trick with your ♠A. Now when you attack ♥s a defensive holdup won't

**Board 3**

East Deals

None Vul

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

♠ Q J 8 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ Q T 8

♣ 9 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ -  
♥ K 8 4  
♦ A K J 7 6 5 2  
♣ A 6 5

West	North	East	South
		2♠	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

5♦ by South

Back to dummy with the ♦Q and ruff the ♠2 with a high trump just to be safe. West drops the ♠9 on this trick.

Pull West's last trump and enter dummy with the ♥A and FINALLY discard a loser on the now established ♠8.

Here you needed ♠ T 9 x to be with West if you were to make the contract so you played for just that holding.

**Baker Establishment 19**

3NT would have been a lot easier, but you didn't get there. South is to play 5♦. West leads the ♠T.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 3

The good news is that you only have one loser to get rid of. The bad news is that there doesn't seem to be a good place to put it.

Unlikely as it seems, your best candidate for establishment is dummy's ♠8. West is marked with 3 ♠s, and having led the ♠T there is a good chance that he also has the ♠9. If so you can ruff it out.

Cover the ♠T with dummy's ♠J, and when East plays one of his honors ruff in your hand. Play a trump to the ♦T, East showing out. Lead the ♠Q. East will be forced to play his other high honor, (if he doesn't you would discard a loser), and you ruff again.

Back to dummy with the ♦Q and ruff the ♠2 with a

**Board 4**

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ A Q J T 9 7  
 ♥ K T 5  
 ♦ A 5  
 ♣ A K

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

	N	W	E	
♠	8 2			
♥	Q 8 2			
♦	Q T 9 4			
♣	Q J 7 2			

♠ K 6 4  
 ♥ A 9 3  
 ♦ 8 6  
 ♣ 9 8 6 4 3

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

6♠ by West

You ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy's ♠K and ruff the ♣8, establishing the ♣9 while you still have the ♥ entry.

This was a combination of Suit Establishment and End-play. The lesson on Eliminations contains a lot more of this type of hand.

Baker Establishment 20  
 West is to play 6♠. North leads the ♠5.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

First pull trumps with the ♠A and ♠Q, both defenders following. Next you must establish dummy's ♣ suit to get rid of one of your losers. If the suit splits 3-3 that will be easy since you have two dummy entries, one to get there to ruff the third ♣ and the other to get there to enjoy playing the winners. But ♣s will probably split 4-2 so the two entries won't be enough. Here's how to make the defenders help you establish the suit.

After pulling trumps, play the ♣ A K, then ♦ A. Next exit with a small ♦.

to see the position.

The defender who won the ♦ trick has a problem. If he plays another ♦ you will get a ruff-sluff, and if he plays a ♥ you will play for the ♥Q and ♥J to be in different hands. So he will probably play a ♣.