

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 7
♥ T 7 6 4 2
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ 7

13
4 9
14

♠ A J 5
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 8
♣ T 9 8 5 3



♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2

♠ K Q T 4 2
♥ 9 8 5
♦ T 9 7
♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	1 ♠	3 ♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT by North

Baker Signals 1

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.
You led the ♠K, West played the ♠7 and North the ♠5.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You can see the ♠6, ♠5, ♠4, ♠3 and ♠2. So the ♠7 is West's lowest ♠, he is doing his best to discourage you from leading the suit again.

North held up with ♠ A J x, hoping you would play the suit again and give him two tricks.

If you play the ♦T West will win the ♦A and return a ♠, allowing you to drive out North's ♠A while you still have the ♣A for an entry.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q T 4 2
♥ 9 8 5
♦ T 9 7
♣ A 4

14
9 5
12

♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2



♠ A 9 8
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 8
♣ T 9 8 5 3

♠ J 7 5
♥ T 7 6 4 2
♦ A 6 4 3
♣ 7

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	3 ♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3NT by South

Baker Signals 2

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠K, East played the ♠7 and South the ♠8.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You cannot see the ♠5. The most likely reason is that East has it, and his ♠7 is an encouraging signal. The only reason he would encourage you is if he held either the ♠A or ♠J.

Together, you two continue to play ♠s to drive out South's ♠A. When you get the lead with your ♣A you will cash your ♠ winners and East will still have the ♦A for some icing on the cake.

There IS another possibility if South is a better than average Declarer. East just might hold ♠ 9 7, giving South ♠ A J 8 5. South played the ♠8 as a falsecard to tempt you into playing the suit again. This isn't too likely, but if it happens just congratulate South for the fine play.

Deal 3

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ K 8 6 3
♥ Q T
♦ T 9 5 4 2
♣ 8 2

14
5 10
11

♠ Q J 9
♥ A 9 7 5 2
♦ A K
♣ T 9 7



♠ A T 7 2
♥ K J 8 3
♦ Q 8 6
♣ J 4

♠ 5 4
♥ 6 4
♦ J 7 3
♣ A K Q 6 5 3

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

4 ♥ by North

Baker Signals 3

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣A, dummy played the ♣4 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East will play the ♣Q on which you will play the ♣2.

East now knows you started with a doubleton, and more importantly, he also knows you want him to play a third ♣.

When he next plays the ♣K dummy will ruff, but whatever card he ruffs with you will have established a trump trick. When you later win your ♠K that will be down 1.

Deal 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 3
♥ J 8 4 3
♦ K J 9 5 2
♣ 8 2

5
5 8
22

♠ J 8 4
♥ 7 6 2
♦ 8 4
♣ K J 9 6 5



♠ A K 5
♥ A K Q 5
♦ A T 6
♣ Q T 3

♠ Q T 9 6 2
♥ T 9
♦ Q 7 3
♣ A 7 4

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

3NT by North

Baker Signals 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♦5, East wins the ♦Q and returns the ♦7. South holds up his ♦A until the third round. He then plays the ♣Q and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You assume (hope) that East holds the ♣A. If he does then he will need help from you to decide which trick he should win. You play the ♣8 first, and the ♣2 next to show an even number.

If East is paying attention he will know to win the THIRD ♣. This will kill dummy's ♣ suit, and with it South's chance of making 9 tricks.

Deal 5

South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q T 8 4
♥ Q J 9
♦ K 9 5 2
♣ 9 3

10
8 8
14

♠ K 9 3
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ J 8
♣ Q 7 4



♠ A
♥ K T 8 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ J 8 6 2

♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ T 6 4
♣ A K T 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

4 ♥ by North

Baker Signals 5

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣A, dummy played the ♣2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you signal with the ♣9 East will continue with the ♣K and another which you will have to ruff. You will give up your NATURAL trump trick by doing so. Worse, you will allow South's ♣J to be established as a winner that North can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and North will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦K, return the ♣9 back to East's ♣K, and still have your trump trick for later.

Deal 6

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A K Q T 7
♥ T 9
♦ 9 7 2
♣ K 8 4

7
12 3
18

West

1 ♠

All Pass

4 ♥ by South

played this way.

♠ J 6 4 2

♥ J 6 3

♦ A J 6

♣ T 7 3



♠ 8 5

♥ A K Q 8 7 2

♦ K 5 4

♣ A Q

North

2 ♥

East

Pass

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

Baker Signals 6

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ A, East plays the ♠ 9, South the ♠ 5. You assume East has signaled you to continue ♠ s, so you play the ♠ Q. On this trick East plays the ♠ 3 and South the ♠ 8. How will you continue?

When you have made your choice

You might just switch suits, but you have a better choice.

If you play your ♠ Q, East won't bother ruffing, South WILL ruff and dummy's ♠ J will be established as a winner.

The best procedure is to lead a low ♠. East will ruff and South will over-ruff but by playing this way you stop the establishment of North's ♠ J. As you can see, South would have been able to discard a loser on that ♠ J if you hadn't

Deal 7

North Deals
Both Vul

♠ A T 5 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ A 7 3
♣ J 6 2

19
9 6
6

West
All Pass

North
2NT

East
Pass

South
3NT

♠ Q 7 4
♥ A K 4
♦ J 6
♣ A K Q T 4

N
W E
S

♠ J 8
♥ 9 6 2
♦ K Q T 9 4
♣ 9 7 5

♠ K 9 6 3
♥ Q J T 7
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 8 3

Baker Signals 7

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥Q, you played low and North won the ♥A.

North now plays the ♦J on which East plays the ♦2. What do you play now, and what is your plan.

When you have made your choice

South hoped his ♦ suit would provide enough tricks to make the game. You can see that there is no entry to the South hand EXCEPT in ♦s, so you want to win your ♦A on the trick that North plays his last ♦. How can you tell which trick that is?

Only by watching what East plays. On the ♦J East played the ♦2, a low card signaling that he held an ODD number of ♦s. ODD must be

either one or three so when he followed to the next ♦ you know he started with three. A little bit of counting tells you that North started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

This defense holds North to one ♦ tricks, if you had let him win the second one he would have had 9 tricks.

Deal 8

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 5
♥ Q T 6 4
♦ K 7 2
♣ T 5 2

7
9 5
19

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ Q 6
♣ 9 7 6 4



♠ J T 4
♥ A K
♦ J T 9 5
♣ A K Q J

♠ 8 7 2
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ A 8 4 3
♣ 8 3

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

3NT by North

Baker Signals 8

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥4, East plays the ♥J, won by South with ♥A.

South plays the ♠J, you follow with ♠5, dummy ♠3 and East plays the ♠2. South continues with the ♠T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♠2 tells you he had an ODD number of ♠s, obviously 3. Since South also must have 3, you must take your ♠A on the third round, depriving dummy of the extra ♠ trick.

South may now turn to the ♦ suit, but your side can win the first ♦ and drive out South's ♥K. You will win 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and the ♠A, down 1

Deal 9

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 9 7 3 2
 ♥ -
 ♦ T 9 8 4 3
 ♣ A K J 9

15
 8 4
 13

♠ A Q T 5
 ♥ K Q 9 4
 ♦ K J
 ♣ 8 7 3



♠ K J 6
 ♥ J T 6 3
 ♦ A Q 6
 ♣ Q T 5

♠ 8 4
 ♥ A 8 7 5 2
 ♦ 7 5 2
 ♣ 6 4 2

West

North

East

South

1NT

Pass

3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

that you might like a ♣ so he plays his ♣2 and you win 4 tricks.

Baker Signals 9

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥5, dummy played the ♥T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You really want East to lead a ♣ if he gets into the lead. If you discard the ♣9 East will surely get the message and will lead a ♣. BUT - you will only win 3 ♣ tricks. The ♣9 would have been the fourth winner.

So instead, play a low card in one of the other suits, say the ♦3.

North is one trick short and he sees he can easily get that trick in ♥s. So he plays a second ♥ from dummy and you now discard the ♠2. East takes the ♥A and he can see that you don't want him to lead a ♠ or a ♦. He deduces

Deal 10

East Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 5 3
♥ 4
♦ J 8 6 4 2
♣ J 9 4 3

12
2 8
18

♠ K J 7
♥ Q J 2
♦ Q T 3
♣ K T 7 5



♠ A Q T 9 4 2
♥ K 8 5
♦ A K
♣ Q 8

♠ 8
♥ A T 9 7 6 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ A 6 2

West	North	East	South
		2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

4 ♠ by South

Baker Signals 10

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.
You led the ♥4, East takes the ♥A and returns
the ♥3. You ruff and then play what???

When you have made your choice

Partner played the ♥3, a low card, for you to
ruff. That means his re-entry, if he has one, is
in the lower-ranking suit.

Partner takes the ♣A and gives you a second
♥ ruff.

Deal 11

North Deals
None Vul

♠ T 9 4
♥ 9 5 3
♦ Q 7 2
♣ A Q J 4

13
9 8
10

♠ A
♥ A K J 8 7 2
♦ J T 5
♣ T 5 3



♠ K Q 7 5 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ K 9 6

♠ J 8 6 3
♥ T 6
♦ A K 8 4
♣ 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	All Pass	

2 ♥ by North

Baker Signals 11

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♦ A, dummy played the ♦ 3 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You know partner also has the ♦ K, and normally you would give an encouraging signal when you hold the Queen. But with this hand you want partner to switch to ♣ s as soon as possible. So you play a low ♦ .

East looks at your signal, then looks at dummy, then looks at your signal. He knows you want a switch and it looks like a switch to ♣ s might work the best. North plays a low ♣ from dummy, you win the ♣ J. Next you play a low ♦ , taken by East with his ♦ K. East leads a ♣ . Dummy plays the ♣ K, you win that, cash another ♣ , then cash your ♦ Q. That first

signal led to your side winning the first 6 tricks. Wow.

Deal 12

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 6 4
♥ A K 7 2
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ 9 5

10
11 6
13

♠ A T 3
♥ T 6
♦ 9 7 2
♣ K Q J 3 2



♠ K Q J 7 5 2
♥ 9 5
♦ K 5
♣ A T 4

♠ 8
♥ Q J 8 4 3
♦ Q J T 4
♣ 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♠	Pass	1♠
All Pass			4♠

4♠ by South

Baker Signals 12

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥A, East puts on the ♥Q. It's your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♥Q is either a singleton, (practically impossible), or a signal showing that he also holds the ♥J. In either case you can reach the East hand on the second trick by playing a low ♥. Since you don't particularly want to start playing ♦s from your side, you go ahead and play a small ♥, won by East with the ♥J.

East next plays the ♦Q and however South tries it your side will take the next two ♦ tricks and set the contract.

Deal 13

North Deals
Both Vul

♠ T 9 6 3 2
♥ K 2
♦ Q J 8
♣ 8 7 6

15
6 10
9

♠ A Q
♥ J T 4
♦ T 7 4 3
♣ A K J 2



♠ J 5
♥ A Q 9 8 7 5
♦ 5 2
♣ Q T 4

♠ K 8 7 4
♥ 6 3
♦ A K 9 6
♣ 9 5 3

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

4♥ by South

East's ♠K before North can pull trumps and discard one of dummy's ♠s on his fourth ♣.

Baker Signals 13

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. East led the ♦A, dummy played the ♦2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

As soon as dummy appears you can see 3 tricks for your side. Partner surely has the ♦K to go with his Ace and you have a certain trump trick. However, that's all you can see.

Your best hope is that East may be able to win a ♠ trick, and it may be important for the first ♠ lead to come from your side of the table.

Your ♦Q play informs partner that you also have the ♦J, giving him the option of underleading his ♦K to get to your hand.

East next plays a small ♦ which you win with your ♦J. You return the ♠T. This establishes

Deal 14

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 6 5 2
♥ A Q T 6
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ -

8
7 8
17

♠ 7
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 7 3
♣ A K J 9 6 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 8 4
♥ J 7 4
♦ K Q 8 6
♣ Q 7 3

♠ A K Q 3
♥ K 9 8
♦ A J T
♣ T 8 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

3NT by North

Baker Signals 14

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠5, East plays the ♠T and South wins the ♠K. To the second trick South plays the ♣T and you must discard something.

When you have made your choice

You know that East has no high ♠ honor or he would have played it to the first trick. So South has the ♠ A Q left, plus all those ♣ tricks. You need to have West switch to a ♥ if possible.

East must be expecting to lead a ♠ back when he wins the ♣Q which you hope he holds. Your ♠J discard may make him rethink. If your ♠s were any good why would you be discarding a winner when all you had to do was toss a small red card?

Hopefully East will come to the conclusion that this is Suit Preference for a ♥ return and will play his ♥J. Hopefully.

Deal 15

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ T 4
♥ 9
♦ J 8 7 2
♣ A 9 8 6 5 3

18
5 9
8

♠ J 8 5
♥ A Q J 8 7 5 2
♦ A K
♣ K

N
W E
S

♠ 9 6 2
♥ K T 6 3
♦ Q 9 4
♣ Q J 4

♠ A K Q 7 3
♥ 4
♦ T 6 5 3
♣ T 7 2

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

4 ♥ by North

Baker Signals 15

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠A, dummy played the ♠2 and you signal with your ♠T. East next plays the ♠Q and you drop the ♠4, completing your doubleton signal. East then plays the ♠K and it turns out you don't have to ruff after all. So what are you going to play?

When you have made your choice

This should be a clear enough signal for East to play a ♣ to your ♣A next.

An alternate play, just as good, would be for you to ruff the good ♠Q and play the ♣A yourself.

If you don't get your ♣ trick at trick 4 you will never get it. North will discard his ♣K on South's extra ♦ winner.

Deal 16

South Deals
None Vul

♠ T
♥ 9 6 4 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ K Q T 6 3

8
5 13
14

♠ Q J 9 8 6 3
♥ Q 7 2
♦ Q 8 4
♣ J



♠ A K 7 5 4
♥ T 8 5
♦ A K
♣ 8 5 4

♠ 2
♥ A K J
♦ J T 6 3 2
♣ A 9 7 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	All Pass	1♠

4♠ by North

♥s).

West dutifully plays a ♥ and you take the next three tricks. Had he switched to a ♦ instead, South would have been able to discard one of his ♥ losers on North's ♦Q.

Baker Signals 16

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣K, dummy's singleton was played and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

West will look at your ♣9 and perhaps think for an instant that you want him to play another ♣.

But it will be a short instant because a look at dummy makes it absolutely clear to everybody that playing another ♣ could not help your side. Dummy has so many trumps that repeated ♣ leads would do nothing.

OK. If it's not an encouraging Attitude signal, what is it? Suit preference of course. Since it is a high spot card you are asking West to switch to the higher suit (choosing between ♦s and

Deal 17

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 3
♥ J T 6 2
♦ K J 9 5 4 2
♣ 3

6
5 11
18

West
All Pass

♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2
♥ 8 5
♦ 6
♣ T 7 5



♠ A T 6
♥ A K Q 4
♦ Q T 3
♣ Q J 2

North
3 ♠

East
Pass

South
4 ♠

4 ♠ by South

Baker Signals 17

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣A. Seeing your ♣3 he next played the ♦A. What will you play on this trick?

When you have made your choice

Normally with this holding you would play the ♦9 to encourage East to play a second ♦ through dummy's ♦Q T.

But this time you really want him to take his ♣K. So play the discouraging ♦2 and hope he gets the message to go back to ♣s. If he does play the ♣K next it will win and he can then give you a ♣ ruff.

Deal 18

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 5
♥ K Q 8 5 3
♦ 9 6 2
♣ J 4

8
6 6
20

♠ 6 4 2
♥ 9 6 4
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ K 7 3



♠ A K Q
♥ A T
♦ A J 4
♣ Q T 8 6 2

♠ J T 7 3
♥ J 7 2
♦ T 7 5
♣ A 9 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

3NT by North

So grab your ♣A and return partner's ♥ suit.

Baker Signals 18

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥5, you put on the ♥J, South won with the ♥A. The second trick was ♦A, ♦2, ♦3, ♦5. The third trick was ♦J, ♦6, ♦8, ♦7. South then put the ♣Q on the table.

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like South is trying to create an entry to dummy so he can cash the 2 ♦ winners? That's what he wants it to look like, hoping someone holds up their ♣A.

But don't believe Declarer, believe your partner. On the first ♦ West played the ♦2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And South must also have a third one, so he is up to some trickery with that ♣Q.

Deal 19

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ T 3
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ Q 8 4

16
7 0
17

♠ A Q J 2
♥ J T 3
♦ A K T
♣ J T 3



♠ K 9 8 6 4
♥ A 6
♦ Q J 3
♣ A K 9

♠ 7 5
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 7 6 5 2

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

6♠ by North

one more ♥. So you play your ♥K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to East's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

Baker Signals 19

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. The 2♥ bid was a transfer. The 5NT bid meant to choose either 6♠ or 6NT. North liked the suit. Partner led the ♠5, won by North's ♠Q. North pulls one more trump with his ♠A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥A on which he plays the ♥3 and East plays the ♥9. Then he leads dummy's ♥6 which you win with the ♥Q. On this trick North drops the ♥J and East the ♥2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe North is now out of ♥s then you should not play your ♥K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe North when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In this case an even number must be 4 which means that North has

Deal 20

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q T
♥ 9 2
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A K T 6 3

12
13 2
13

West
1 ♣
Pass
All Pass

North
Pass
2 ♣

East
Pass
Pass

South
1 ♥
4 ♥

♠ 6 4
♥ A J 8
♦ A Q J 6
♣ 8 7 5 4

N
W E
S

♠ K J 3
♥ K Q 7 6 4 3
♦ K T
♣ J 9

♠ 9 8 7 5 2
♥ T 5
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ Q 2

Baker Signals 20

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣A, East played the ♣2 and South the ♣9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣Q and ♣J. If East started with ♣J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣J. If East started with ♣Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣2 or with ♣Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣Q, then

4 ♥ by South

leads a ♠ back to your ♠ A Q.