

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 4
♥ Q 5 2
♦ Q T 9
♣ Q J 9 6 2

♠ A K 7 2
♥ A J T 8 7 4
♦ K 5
♣ 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J T 8 3
♥ 6 3
♦ A J 3
♣ K T 7

♠ 6 5
♥ K 9
♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ A 8 5 3

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

4♥ by South

to your hand and ruff the ♠7 with dummy's ♥9. West may over-ruff this, but only with a trump trick he was going to win anyway.

You will lose two ♦s and the ♥Q but no more.

The problem is that West would have over-ruffed the ♥9 and then played another ♥ and you would not have gotten to ruff either ♠,

Baker 100Deals 86

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

You open 1♥, East overcalls 1♠ and partner passes.

What do you say?

You shouldn't let East steal from you so you will bid your ♥s again. You must decide between 2♥ and 3♥. Given that partner might have had a pretty decent hand yet still have to pass, you decide to go with 3♥. Partner bids 4♥.

North plays 4♥. East leads the ♠Q.

Losers: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 0 : Total = 5

Win the ♠K, then enter dummy with the ♣A and play another ♠ toward your ♠A. You do this to prevent West ruffing your high ♠. Next you lead the ♠2 and ruff with dummy's ♥K. Ruff a ♣ to get back

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A
♥ A K J T 7 4
♦ A 9 3
♣ 6 5 3

♠ K T 7 6

♥ 8 3 2

♦ K 6 5

♣ J 8 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 8 5 4
♥ Q 6
♦ J T 4
♣ A 7 2

♠ Q 3 2
♥ 9 5
♦ Q 8 7 2
♣ K Q T 9

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

4♥ by West

More promising is playing South to have at least one of the ♦ honors and taking two finesse in that suit. BUT, entries are still a problem. You can only reach dummy twice, once with the ♣A and once with the ♥Q, and you must play ♦s each time you are there.

Win the first trick with the ♣A and play the ♦J, letting it ride if South doesn't cover. North will win this trick and take two ♣s. He will probably then lead a ♠. You win your ♠A, play ♥A then a small ♥ to dummy's ♥Q. Now lead a ♦ and finesse with your ♦9. When this wins, pull trumps and claim.

This will happen about 75% of the time, so the double finesse is a good Plan. And on this Deal it was the only plan available.

Baker 100Deals 87

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

You respond 1♠, your 5-card Major. Partner jumps to 3♥.

Make your next bid.

Partner is showing 16-18 points and you have 9. Since he rebid ♥s he must have at least six of them you know there is an 8-card fit. You bid 4♥.

East would play 4♥.

West plays 4♥. North leads the ♣K.

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

You might consider setting up dummy's ♠ suit for a discard but there are too few entries to make that work.

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 9 8 4

♥ J 5

♦ T 9 8

♣ A K T 7 4

♠ 7

♥ A K Q 8 6 2

♦ A 5

♣ Q 9 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q T 3

♥ 9 7 3

♦ K J 6 2

♣ 8 2

♠ A J 6 5 2

♥ T 4

♦ Q 7 4 3

♣ J 6

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

4♥ by North

Baker 100Deals 88

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

You respond with your 5-card Major, 1♠.

Partner jumps to 3♥. What do you bid?

With partner's 16-18 points you probably have enough strength for game.

With partner's six ♥s you have an 8-card fit.

So you bid 4♥.

South would play 4♥.

North plays 4♥. East leads ♣A, ♣K, ♣4. West plays ♣8 then ♣2.

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

Suppose you discard a ♦ from dummy. If West doesn't ruff this ♣ Then your ♣Q will win. You could then try to establish dummy's ♦Q to discard your fourth ♣ on.

But you know that plan won't work because West IS going to ruff this ♣ if you discard. You only have one chance to make this contract, and that is the chance that West was not dealt the ♥J. So you ruff with dummy's ♥T and pray West doesn't over-ruff.

So you won that trick and still had your ♣Q to use after you pulled trumps.

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ 6 3

♥ A J T

♦ A 6 3

♣ A 9 8 4 2

♠ K 9 5 2

♥ 9

♦ K Q J 9

♣ Q J 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 7

♥ K Q 8 7 6 5 2

♦ 8 5 2

♣ 6

♠ A J T 8 4

♥ 4 3

♦ T 7 4

♣ K T 3

West	North	East	South
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

4♥ by East

on the good ♣9.

Fortunately that occurs a high percentage of the time. In any case, there was no other hope.

Baker 100Deals 89

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

Responding to preempts is easy. You don't count points, you just count tricks. Assume partner for 6 tricks and add yours to see how high to go (or not go).

Here, with three Aces and a possible ♠ ruff you raise to game.

West would play 4♥.

East plays 4♥. North leads the ♦ K.

Win the ♦ A, play ♣ A and ruff the ♣ 2 with a high trump. Play a ♥ to the ♥ T and ruff the ♣ 4 with a high trump. Play a ♥ to the ♥ J and ruff the ♣ 8 with a high trump. Play a ♥ to the ♥ A and discard a loser

Board 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A 4 2

♥ T 9 5 3

♦ 7 4 2

♣ 5 4 3

♠ K 8 6

♥ A 8 4

♦ A Q 8

♣ Q J T 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 7 3

♥ J 7 2

♦ 9 6 5

♣ 8 6 2

♠ J T 5

♥ K Q 6

♦ K J T 3

♣ A K 9

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

6NT by North

Baker 100Deals 90

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

You have 16 points - a pretty solid 16 in fact. Partner has 15, 16 or 17, so together you have 31, 32 or 33. You want to invite partner to bid 6NT if he has 17, but to decline if he has 15. The correct bid for this invitation is 4NT. It is called a "quantitative" 4NT since it is just an invitational raise. It is NOT Blackwood - if you wanted to ask for Aces you would use Gerber.

Partner bids the slam.

North would play 6NT.

South plays 6NT. West leads the ♠3.

Winner count: ♠ 0 : ♥ 3 : ♦ 4 : ♣ 4 : Total = 11

It's pretty clear which suit you have to worry about! Your goal is simple, you must win one ♠ trick before you lose two. So the crux of your problem is: Who holds the ♠A and ♠Q?

If West has both of them you are guaranteed to win the first trick no matter what you play.

If East has both of them you are going to lose the first two tricks no matter what you play.

The problem is to decide what to do if they are split. The answer relies on psychology, not on probability. West has made an attacking lead. But if you were West would you start out leading a low ♠ from a suit like ♠ A 9 7 3? That would be incredibly foolhardy, you would probably lead a different suit and save your ♠A for catching something high from declarer. On the other hand you would be quite likely to lead a small card from ♠ Q 9 7 3.

Your PLAN should be to play low in dummy and win your ♠T if East withholds the ♠A.

Since West is unlikely to underlead an Ace against 6NT you play East for the ♠A.