

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 3
♥ A K 9 7 5
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 6 3

♠ K Q 6
♥ Q T 4
♦ J
♣ A J 9 8 4 2



♠ A T 4
♥ J 6 3
♦ A K 8 2
♣ Q T 5

| West | North | East | South |
|------------|------------|------------------|----------|
| 1♥ Pass | 2♣ Pass | Pass All Pass | 1♦ 3♣ |

3 NT by North

Not today. Partner takes the ♣K and returns his ♥2 to your four winners.

Baker ThirdHand 13

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥8, dummy played the ♥J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

North played dummy's ♥J to tempt you to cover.
Don't fall for it.

Partner's lead of a high spot card shows no honors in the suit. That added to the fact that North bid Notrump after you had mentioned ♥s is pretty good evidence that North holds at least ♥ Q x x.

To maintain communication with partner your best hope is to duck the first ♥, but to signal encouragement with the ♥9.

North wins the first trick easily, but must try to establish ♣s. He will enter dummy with the ♠A, then try to run the ♣Q.

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 6 2

♥ T 6 4

♦ A J 6 5 4

♣ 9 2

♠ Q J 9 3

♥ K Q J 5

♦ 9 3

♣ Q J T

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ 8 4

♥ 9 7 3

♦ T 8 7 2

♣ A 6 5 3

♠ A T 7 5

♥ A 8 2

♦ K Q

♣ K 8 7 4

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | 2♠ |

4 ♠ by North

wait. Declarer then runs dummy's ♠Q. Partner wins the ♠K, returns his OTHER ♣ to your ♣A, and NOW you give him the ruff. He takes the ♦A for down 1.

Baker ThirdHand 14

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣9, dummy played the ♣T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Partner's ♣9 is likely from a short suit. If it is a singleton, you should take the ♣A immediately and return the suit for a ruff. If it is a doubleton, you should NOT take your ♣A now, but should hope partner can get the lead and play his second ♣ to your Ace so you can give him the ruff.

You can figure out which it is.

If it is a singleton, then South must hold 5 ♣s. But you know South has 4 ♠s, so if he also has 5 ♣s then he only has 4 red cards, and he would not have opened 1NT with either 5-4-2-2 or 5-4-3-1 distribution.

So partner's ♣9 is not a singleton, and you should

Board 3

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q J 9 7

♥ K Q 6 5 3

♦ T

♣ A 6 4

♠ A K 4

♥ A 7 4

♦ A K 7 3

♣ Q 5 2



♠ T 8 3

♥ T 2

♦ Q J 8 6 4 2

♣ 8 3

♠ 6 5 2

♥ J 9 8

♦ 9 5

♣ K J T 9 7

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♥ | Dbl | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

3 NT by South

Baker ThirdHand 15

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

When you have made your choice

Declarer gets two ♥ winners whether you play one of your honors on this trick or not. So why does it matter what you do?

Suppose you cover with your ♥Q. North will win his ♥A, then play ♣s until your ♣A is forced out on the third round. He can then force an entry to dummy in the ♥ suit to reach the two ♣ winners.

Now suppose you duck the ♥J. Again North will push ♣s, and again you hold up until the third round. Ahh, what a difference. Now declarer cannot use the ♥s to enter dummy and he will never get to enjoy those two ♣ winners.

Board 4

North Deals

None Vul

| |
|-------------|
| ♠ Q |
| ♥ T 9 6 5 2 |
| ♦ J 8 6 3 |
| ♣ 6 4 2 |

| |
|-------------|
| ♠ 7 5 4 2 |
| ♥ K Q |
| ♦ A 5 |
| ♣ K J T 8 5 |

| |
|---|
| N |
| W |
| E |
| S |

| |
|-------------|
| ♠ K T 9 8 6 |
| ♥ 8 7 4 |
| ♦ Q 7 4 |
| ♣ A Q |

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

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

3NT by North

Now do it the right way. Play your ♠K on partner's ♠Q. Assume South takes the trick, although it doesn't matter whether he wins the first one or holds up. When you win your first ♣ drive out South's ♠J. When you win your second ♣ trick your ♠s will be good. If you overtake the first trick the contract can no longer be made.

Notice that South will always make two ♠ tricks, so your overtake costs nothing.

Baker ThirdHand 16

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠Q, a low card was played from dummy, and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

It seems that perhaps you should play low and let partner's ♠Q force out South's ♠A. Then, when you get the lead with a high ♣ you can force out South's ♠J. Get the lead with your other high ♣ and set the contract with ♠s.

Suppose you try that. Play low on the first ♠. South will also play low and West will be left holding the trick, and also holding the bag! With no more ♠s West will have to play one of the other three suits, and that is just what South wants to have happen. The contract could no longer be beaten.

Board 5

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 8 7 5 4 2

♥ Q T 4

♦ 8 3

♣ A 6

♠ Q J T

♥ A 7

♦ A K 7 5

♣ T 7 5 3

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| N | | |
| W | E | |
| S | | |

♠ 9 3

♥ J 8 6 5 2

♦ J T 9 4

♣ K 4

♠ A 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ Q J 9 8 2

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

3 NT by South

♠ Q, and your other three good ♠s.

Just like the previous deal, North gets two ♠ tricks either way, but one way he makes an overtrick, the other way he goes down 2.

Baker ThirdHand 17

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠9, dummy played the ♠6 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You could easily win the ♠K, then play a small ♠ to drive out dummy's ♠A. But North bid Notrump over your 2♠ overcall, so he surely holds ♠ Q J T. So when you get the lead with your one ♣A entry you can establish your ♠s, but you won't get into the lead to cash them.

Look what happens when you duck the first trick. North will win the trick with his ♠T, and start on dummy's ♣ suit.

East (your wonderful partner) will win the first ♣ and return his final ♠ to dummy's ♠A.

North will have to keep working on ♣s, but now you can win the ♣A and play your ♠K, dropping North's

Board 6

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q 8 3
♥ 6
♦ J T 7 2
♣ K Q J T

♠ J T 6 4

♥ Q J T

♦ A K 6

♣ 9 4 2

| | | | |
|---|---|---------|-------------|
| | N | | ♠ 7 2 |
| W | | ♥ 8 4 3 | |
| | E | | ♦ 9 5 4 |
| | S | | ♣ A 8 7 5 3 |

♠ K 9 5
♥ A K 9 7 5 2
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 6

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

4♥ by North

Baker ThirdHand 18

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣K, dummy played low and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You are pretty sure partner would not have supported your ♣s unless he had 4 of them, which means it is very likely that South has a singleton. (he might even be void)

So if you are to set this contract partner is going to have to have some ♠ winners. It might not matter, but it also might be vital that the first ♠ lead comes from your side of the table so after you overtake with the ♣A you switch to the ♠7.

Partner loves it - whatever South does West takes the next two ♠s, then leads a third ♠ for you to ruff. Down 1.