

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ T 8 4 3
 ♥ J 5 2
 ♦ T 4
 ♣ K T 8 6

♠ A J 2

♥ K Q 4

♦ K Q 7 5

♣ Q 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 6

♥ T 9 8 7

♦ J 9 6 3

♣ 9 5

♠ K Q 5

♥ A 6 3

♦ A 8 2

♣ A J 4 3

West

North

East

South

1NT

Pass

6NT

All Pass

6NT by South

Baker SecondHand 13

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥T, won by dummy's ♥A. At trick 2 North calls for dummy's ♣3. Which card do you play?

When you have made your choice

You would not have been expecting North to play a small ♣ from dummy's holding. The only way it makes sense is if North holds the ♣Q.

If you play your ♣K you will win the trick, but in so doing you will set up 3 ♣ tricks for North, which is all he needs to make the slam.

Play low instead and North will win his ♣Q. But now your ♣ K T sits behind dummy's ♣ J 4 so he can get only one more trick in the suit, the ♣A.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 7 2
 ♥ K J T 9 3
 ♦ 7 2
 ♣ K J T

♠ 8 4 3

♥ 7 4

♦ Q J 9 5

♣ Q 9 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 5

♥ A Q 8 6 5 2

♦ A K

♣ 6 2

♠ J T 9 6

♥ -

♦ T 8 6 4 3

♣ A 8 4 3

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

6 ♥ by East

Baker SecondHand 14

You are South. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠ J, the ♠ K is played from dummy and holds the trick. Next come dummy's ♥ K, then another trump to East's ♥ A.

At trick 4 East plays the ♣ 2 from his hand and you must decide what to play.

When you have made your choice

East has 2 small ♣ s and faces a choice of dummy plays in the suit. He must decide whether to play you for the ♣ A or the ♣ Q. If you play your ♣ A you make the decision very easy for him.

When you correctly play your small ♣ life becomes harder for East. Sometimes he will guess correctly and play dummy's ♣ K, but other times he will play dummy's ♣ J, hoping you have the ♣ Q.

Board 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 8 7 6 2

♥ T 5 4

♦ K 6

♣ J 9 6

♠ 5 4

♥ J 6 2

♦ J 8 5 2

♣ A K Q 2



♠ A 9 3

♥ Q 9 8

♦ A 7 3

♣ T 8 5 4

♠ K Q J

♥ A K 7 3

♦ Q T 9 4

♣ 7 3

West

North

East

South

Pass

3NT

All Pass

1NT

3 NT by North

West's ♦ K will be an entry to the ♠ s

If you play low, West will have to take the ♦ K now, and although he can play a ♠ to establish the suit, he will not have an entry to be able to cash them.

Baker SecondHand 15

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♠ 6. You won the ♠ A and returned the ♠ 9, won by South's ♠ Q.

South next played to dummy's ♣ A and led the ♦ 2. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

Count the points. South's 15-17 plus North's 11 plus your T comes to 36-38. So West has room for an Ace or a King, but no more.

West's second ♠ play was the 2, so it looks like he started with 5 ♠ s. And the fall of South's ♠ s looks like he may have 1 ♠ left, very likely the ♠ K.

All this means that you should take your ♦ A now and return your last ♠ to establish West's suit. Now

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A J T 7 3
 ♥ 9 8 6 4
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ A K

♠ 9 4

♥ A 2

♦ T 6 4 3

♣ Q J T 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 8 6

♥ K 7 5 3

♦ A Q 5

♣ 8 4

♠ 5 2

♥ Q J T

♦ J 9 8 2

♣ 9 6 3 2

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

6 ♠ by West

Suppose you play low on this ♥ (as West hopes you will). Dummy's ♥K will take the trick, and when another ♥ is played you will have to win it with your now bare ♥A. You will then have to play a ♦ or a ♣, giving West a ruff and sluff.

But if you take your ♥A now, then exit with your ♥2, West can win the ♥K but will still have to lose a ♥ to South.

Baker SecondHand 16

You are North. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♣Q, South plays low and West wins the ♣A.

West pulls trumps in 2 rounds. He then takes the ♦K, ♦Q, ♦A, discarding a ♥ on the last one. Next he plays dummy's last ♣ to his ♣K.

Having done all this, West now plays a low ♥ from his hand. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

If you followed what West was doing you will realize that he has eliminated both the ♦s and ♣s from both his hand and dummy. If it isn't clear that he is now out of ♣s, just remember the bidding - he must have had 5 ♠s and 4 ♥s.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 8 4 3
 ♥ Q T 4
 ♦ 8 7 3
 ♣ J 8 7 4

♠ A 6
 ♥ A K 9 6 5
 ♦ J T 5
 ♣ Q T 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q J 9 5
 ♥ -
 ♦ 9 6 4 2
 ♣ 9 6 5 3

♠ T 7 2
 ♥ J 8 7 3 2
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ A K

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	6 ♥
All Pass			

6 ♥ by South

and play another ♥, finessing your ♥T. With no trump loser he will make the slam.

Baker SecondHand 17

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

East led the ♠K, won by North's ♠A. North played a small ♣ to dummy's ♣A, then led dummy's ♥J.

What do you play? ♥Q or ♥4?

When you have made your choice

Remember that North opened 1 ♥, so he has 5 of them. With only 3 trumps out he has no intention of finessing. Perhaps he led the ♥J just to tempt you to cover in this situation.

If you play low he will win with one of his high ♥s and then you will have a sure ♥ winner. Along with the ♠ winner East has you will defeat the slam.

If you cover the ♥J with your ♥Q North will again win with one of his high ones. But now the position will be clear to North and he will return to dummy

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q J 6
 ♥ T 5 4
 ♦ A K 3
 ♣ A Q 7 4

♠ K T 7 4

♥ A 3

♦ J T 9 2

♣ K J 9



♠ 8 3

♥ K Q J 9 8 6

♦ Q 7 5

♣ 6 2

♠ A 9 5 2

♥ 7 2

♦ 8 6 4

♣ T 8 5 3

West

North

East

South

4♥

All Pass

2♥

Pass

4♥ by West

Baker SecondHand 18

You are South. The bidding has been as shown.

You decide a trump lead is called for and lead the ♥2. Your partner wins with the ♥A and plays the ♦J. East lets this go to dummy's ♦K, (but you know he has ♦Q), then plays a trump back to his ♥K, pulling the 2 outstanding trumps from South and North.

East's next play is the ♠3 from his hand. Do you play your ♠A or not?

When you have made your choice

Even if East doesn't have the ♠K he can establish a ♠ winner just by leading twice toward the ♠QJ. That winner will take care of whatever black-suit loser he may have.

If North has a ♣ trick it is important to get it established soon. So go up with the ♠A and play a ♣ through dummy's ♣AQ. When East tries the ♠ suit again NORTH can win and cash his ♣K for the setting trick.

If you play low on East's ♠ play North will be forced to win the trick and he cannot profitably attack the ♣ suit from his side.