

Board 1

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 3
♥ J T 8 5
♦ J 6
♣ Q T 8 7 3

♠ 5 2

♥ A 7 3

♦ K T 4 3

♣ K J 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q J 8 6 4
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 8 7
♣ 9 4

♠ A T 9
♥ K Q 6 4
♦ A 9 5 2
♣ A 5

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

3 NT by South

in the unlikely event that West made his 2♠ bid with a 5-card suit.

Both the ♥ possibility and the ♣ possibility will either work or not, so you can save them for later. Your highest percentage chance is the fourth ♦, but here you must be careful. You must try to establish the ♦s without allowing West to get the lead. It is actually pretty easy. Just play a small ♦ from your hand and when West plays low insert the ♦T. East wins the ♦J but cannot harm you with his return.

When the remaining ♦s fall you have established your ninth trick.

If he does that he hands you all four ♦ tricks!

Baker 100NT 76

Partner's 1NT overcall shows 15-18 points and guarantees a ♠ stop. With 11 points and no 4-card ♥ suit you say 3NT.

The contract would be 3NT played by North.

To make South the declarer ROTATE.

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♠K. Do you hold up or not?

You need just one more winner. It could come from a finesse of the ♣J. It could come from a 3-3 ♥ split. It could come by establishing a fourth card in ♦s.

Most important for now is the ♠ lead? Do you hold up?

Yes you should hold up. In fact you might as well hold up twice since you aren't contemplating a throw-in of West. Holding up twice will protect you

Board 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 5
♥ K T 4
♦ J T 9 5
♣ J 7 4

♠ J 9 8 6 4 3

♥ 7 5 2
♦ 6 2

♣ A Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7
♥ Q J 9 6 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ K T 5 3

♠ A T 2
♥ A 8
♦ A K 7 3
♣ 9 8 6 2

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

3 ♠ by North

you touch trumps.

After this there is nothing the defense can do to stop you ruffing one ♥ in your hand.

to see why this was necessary.

West would have taken the second ♠, then pulled your last ♠. When the ♣ finesse failed you would make only 8 tricks.

Baker 100NT 77

Partner's 2♥ bid is a transfer; you respond 2♠.

Partner now bids 3♠. What do you bid?

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Partner now bids 3♠. What do you bid?

Partner tells you that he has only invitational strength, but has at least 6 ♠s. The ♠s are fine by you, but with only 15 HCP you decide to pass.

UhOh. Maybe you should have bid game.

If the ♠s are 2-2 there will be only one loser in that suit. And maybe the ♣ finesse will work.

Don't get too optimistic too early. If you play ♠A and another ♠ you could go down. Remember that you only counted one ♥ loser - that means you MUST ruff a ♥ in your hand.

Win the ♦ lead and play ♥A and another ♥ before

Board 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 9 5 2
♥ Q J 5
♦ 9 2
♣ T 9 7 4

♠ K Q 8 6 3

♥ 6 2

♦ K 7 3

♣ K 6 2

N
W
E
S

♠ 7 4
♥ A T 9 8
♦ Q J T 8
♣ J 8 3

♠ A T
♥ K 7 4 3
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ A Q 5

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

3 NT by South

A holdup wouldn't hurt you since West would retain the lead. But it probably wouldn't help you much either since you do have 2 stoppers in the suit. You obviously need to establish at least one more winner in ♠s so you won't have to depend on the ♥A being with East. Need it be said that ♥s is the suit you are worried about and East is the Danger hand? Let's say you win the first trick with dummy's ♦K.

Suppose you play ♠A, then ♠ K Q. If they split 3-3 you will be soooo happy because you will make at least T tricks. But if East shows out on the third ♠ you will be pretty happy because you can give up a ♠ to West and still make at least 9 tricks. But if West shows out on the third ♠ you could be in deep trouble. You would have to give East the lead to establish an extra ♠ winner, and he might very well lead through your ♥K.

There is a great safety play to protect against a 4-2 ♠ split. Play a low ♠ from dummy and finesse the ♠T. West may win with a doubleton ♠J but you will still make the contract.

to see what really happens.

But visualize the ♠J and ♠7 transposed. If you don't make the safety play it is true that the ♠J will fall. BUT, East will still take the fourth ♠ and when he gets in he will return the ♥Q.

Baker 100NT 78

With 12 points and a 5-card Major you transfer partner to that Major. You bid 2♥. Partner bids 2♠. Now what do say next?

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You must insist on game, but since partner could have a doubleton ♠ you do so by bidding 3NT to give him the choice.

He chooses 3NT by passing.

The contract would be 3NT played by North.

To make South the declarer ROTATE.

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♦Q. Do you win the first trick or holdup?

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6 2
♥ K J 8 5 2
♦ 9 8
♣ T 7 3

♠ Q T 9 8 4

♥ A 4

♦ Q 7 2

♣ 8 6 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 5 3
♥ Q 6
♦ J T 6 4
♣ K J 9 2

♠ K J
♥ T 9 7 3
♦ A K 5 3
♣ A Q 4

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3 NT by South

If West has only 4 ♥s it will make no difference what you do because they will only win 3 ♥ tricks and you will make your contract. So assume that West has a 5-card suit, which means that East has 2 ♥s. West's suit is definitely NOT ♥ K Q J 5 2; he would have started with the ♥K, not the ♥5. So you can be sure that East holds either ♥ K x, ♥ Q x or ♥ J x. So what?

So you should play the ♥A immediately. If East puts on his small ♥ then his lone honor will block the suit the next time it is played. But if he unblocks the honor under dummy's ♥A then your ♥ T 9 7 will be promoted into a second stopper.

Play the ♥A on the first trick and East is hog-tied. If he plays low the suit blocks, if he sacrifices his ♥Q then your ♥ T 9 7 prevents West from running the suit.

Baker 100NT 79

Partner's 2♥ is a transfer, so you bid 2♠. Partner now bids 2NT. What do you say?

Partner's 2♥ is a transfer, so you bid 2♠. Partner now bids 2NT. What do you say?

Partner is only inviting, so he must have either 9 or 10 points. And since he chose 2NT as the invitation he must have only 5 ♠s. You will accept the invitation since you have a maximum 1NT opener, and you choose 3NT since you know there is no 8-card ♠ fit.

When West leads the ♥5 you have an immediate decision to make.

It is pretty clear that the 4 additional winners you need will be ♠s. The danger is that when you force out the ♠A the defenders might be able to cash 4 ♥s right away. So the immediate decision is whether you take the ♥A on the first trick or wait until the second.

Board 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 4 2
♥ 8 3
♦ 9 8 3
♣ T 8 6 5

♠ K 9 8 6

♥ A T 4

♦ T 7 5 2

♣ A 2

N
W
E
S

♠ 5
♥ K Q J 6 5 2
♦ A 6 4
♣ 9 4 3

♠ A T 7 3
♥ 9 7
♦ K Q J
♣ K Q J 7

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2♥	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass			

4 ♠ by South

stopper in the enemy suit. In any case, partner replies 3♠. Next?

You bid 4♠.

The contract would be 4♠ played by North.

To make South the declarer ROTATE.

South plays 4♠. West leads the ♥K. Do you take the first trick or not?

You should not hold up on the ♥ for two reasons. First, East might have a singleton. Second, you might not have a ♥ loser at all (if you can discard both of dummy's ♥ losers on your ♣s).

So win the ♥A and start on trumps by playing ♠A, then ♠K. Uh Oh. East discards a ♥ on the second ♠ so you have two ♠ losers.

Now you will have to be lucky. Leave the two master trumps undrawn and start running the ♣s. Fortunately East has 4 ♣s and you are able to discard both of dummy's ♥ losers. Play a ♦ next and your luck continues when it is West who takes the trick. Since East can't get in to pull your trumps, you cannot be defeated. You play your ♦ winners and ruff a ♥ in dummy. East will get his two trumps at the end.

East would have taken the two trump tricks, then West would have taken 5 ♥ tricks and the ♦A.

Baker 100NT 80

You need to find out if partner has 4 ♠s. Using lebensohl the way to do that is to first bid 2NT. Partner bids 2♣, the relay bid. What do say next?

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Now you cue-bid 3♥. An immediate cue-bid would have been Stayman, (for the other Major), but the cue-bid following the lebensohl 2NT also promises a stopper in the enemy suit. In any case, partner replies 3♠. Next?

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