

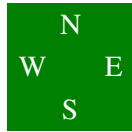
Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 8 4
 ♥ 6 5 2
 ♦ K Q J T 5
 ♣ K 8

♠ A 7 6
 ♥ Q J 9 4
 ♦ 6 2
 ♣ Q 7 5 3



♠ 9 3 2
 ♥ A 8 7 3
 ♦ 9 7 4
 ♣ J T 2

♠ K Q J 5
 ♥ K T
 ♦ A 8 3
 ♣ A 9 6 4

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

3 NT by South

Baker Holdup 1

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♦ K.

Winners: ♠=4 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=1 Total = 6

You need 3 more winners, and they must come from the ♥ suit. The danger is that when you knock out the ♥ A, West may take too many ♦ s. To exhaust East of ♦ s you hold-up your ♦ A until the third round.

Next you start on ♥ s by playing ♥ K, then overtaking the ♥ T. Assume that East wins the second ♥ .

You were fortunate it was East who took the ♥ A, and that he has no ♦ to return. If he plays a ♥ or a ♠ you will win in dummy. If he plays a ♣ you will jump up with the ♣ A and take your winners, 9 in all.

But if you had not held-up your ♦ A even good luck wouldn't have helped you.

Board 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J T 5

♥ J T

♦ 9 6 2

♣ J 7 6

♠ A 7 6

♥ A 8 6 5 3

♦ K 5

♣ A K 5

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

♠ 9 4 3

♥ Q 9 7 2

♦ A 8 4

♣ Q T 2

♠ 8 2

♥ K 4

♦ Q J T 7 3

♣ 9 8 4 3

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

1NT

3NT

All Pass

3 NT by North

♥ A. Voila!

But what if East actually held 4 ♠s? No problem, in that case the ♠s would have split 4-4 so the defenders could only win 3 ♠ tricks and the ♦ A.

The hold-up lets you make the contract whenever East holds the ♦ A. And if West happened to hold the ♦ A??? You go down.

Baker Holdup 2

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠ K.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 5

Even if ♥s split 3-3 you could only get 2 extra winners there, so it should be clear that you must establish the ♦s. You will have to drive out the ♦ A and hope they don't win too many ♠s at that time. You can help your chances by a hold-up of the ♠ A until the third round.

Having just taken the third ♠ trick you now work on ♦s by first playing the ♦ K, then continuing the suit. East wins the third one with his ♦ A. And now the good news - he has no ♠ left to reach his partner's good tricks. So East plays the ♥ Q.

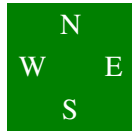
At this point in the play you have three tricks in the bank; ♠ A, ♦ K, ♦ Q. You take your ♥ K, cash the two good ♦s, then lead to dummy for the ♣ A K and

Board 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 7 3 2
♥ T 7
♦ 6 5
♣ J T 8 2

♠ T 5
♥ K 8 5 4
♦ A T 9 3
♣ A 6 5



♠ A 8 6
♥ Q J 9 2
♦ K 7 4
♣ 9 7 3

♠ K 9 4
♥ A 6 3
♦ Q J 8 2
♣ K Q 4

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

3 NT by North

contract.

And as long as you had held up on the ♠K until the third round you could ensure that East was out of ♠s if he had started with only 3.

Baker Holdup 3

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠3. East wins the first trick with the ♠A and returns the ♠8.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 7

You can win 3 more ♦ tricks if the finesse works, but even if it doesn't work you can still get the 2 that you need. Of course if East does win the ♦K it would sure be great if he had no ♠ to lead. So you duck the second ♠ and take your ♠K when they play a third round.

After winning the ♠K you are conveniently in your hand, so you play the ♦Q and let it ride when West plays a low card. Alas, East takes the trick with his ♦K.

It's too bad the finesse didn't work, but it's not too too bad! Because East is out of ♠s and must lead one of the other suits. You don't care which he leads because you can now win 8 more tricks and make your

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 8 4
 ♥ 6 5 4 2
 ♦ K Q J 4
 ♣ 7 5

♠ Q 6
 ♥ A T 9
 ♦ 7 5 2
 ♣ K J T 6 4



♠ J 9 3 2
 ♥ Q 8 3
 ♦ T 9 6
 ♣ A Q 3

♠ A K 7 5
 ♥ K J 7
 ♦ A 8 3
 ♣ 9 8 2

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | 1NT |

3 NT by North

The rest of the tricks are yours, nine in all.

But with this layout you needed to hold up twice.

Baker Holdup 4

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♦ K.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 6

You will need some ♣ tricks to make the contract. If West has 5 ♦s and also the ♣A then you will go down. It doesn't matter if he has the ♣Q because you can finesse him out of that.

But in the case where East has both the ♣ A Q you need to make sure he has no ♦ when he takes his first trick. So hold up the ♦ A until the third round, everybody following.

Now start on the ♣s. Play your ♣9 and let it ride. East wins the ♣Q and returns a ♠. Good, he didn't have the fourth ♦.

Win with dummy's ♠Q and force out the ♣A.

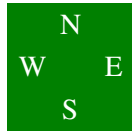
Board 5

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 6
 ♥ A T 8 6 4
 ♦ T 7 3
 ♣ J 8 3 2

♠ A Q 8 2
 ♥ 7 5 3
 ♦ Q 6 4
 ♣ A 9 5



♠ K 7 5 3
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ J 8 5 2
 ♣ Q T 4

♠ J T 9 4
 ♥ K Q 2
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ K 7 6

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | 1NT |

3 NT by North

no ♥ to return so he plays a ♦ which you win with your ♦ A.

Play off your 7 winners and give up a ♣ at the end.

So you decide whether to hold up or not based on how you expect to play the hand.

Baker Holdup 5

With his 4-3-3-3 distribution North chooses not to bother with Stayman. South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♥ 6. East plays the ♥ J.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=1 ♦=3 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need to get two more winners. The ♥ suit might provide one of them, but you will still have to establish ♠ s. The burning question is whether to win the first ♥ or to hold up. If you take this trick you will have a second stopper if West takes the lead, but you will be in extreme danger if East takes the lead. Since the ♠ finesse has to go into East you should hold up.

East returns the ♥ 9, West takes the ♥ A and clears the suit.

You have lost two tricks so far. Lead the ♠ J and let it ride. East wins their third trick with the ♠ K but has

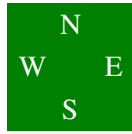
Board 6

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 3
 ♥ A T 8 6 4
 ♦ T 7 3
 ♣ J 8 3

♠ J T 9 4
 ♥ 7 5 3
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ A 9 5



♠ A Q 8 2
 ♥ K Q 2
 ♦ Q 6 4
 ♣ K 7 6

♠ 7 6 5
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ J 8 5 2
 ♣ Q T 4 2

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | 1NT |

3 NT by North

Baker Holdup 6

With his 4-3-3-3 distribution North chooses not to bother with Stayman. South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♥6. East plays the ♥J.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=1 ♦=3 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need to get two more winners. The ♥ suit might provide one of them, but you will still have to establish ♠s. The burning question is whether to win the first ♥ or to hold up. If you take this trick you will have a second stopper if West takes the lead, but you will be in extreme danger if East takes the lead. Since the ♠ finesse has to go into West you should not hold up.

You win with your ♥K, (keeping West in the dark about who holds the ♥Q), enter dummy with the ♦A and play the ♠J, letting it ride to West's ♠K.

West cannot play ♥s without setting up your ♥Q so he will probably exit with a ♣ which you take with the ♣K.

Play off your 6 winners and concede the last three tricks.

But it sure makes a big difference in how you play the hand.

This might have turned out even better. If West had decided to play his partner for the ♥Q, (who would have played ♥J from a holding of ♥ Q J x), you would have made an overtrick!