

Board 1
West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q
♥ J 8 4
♦ J T 2
♣ K J T 5 4 3

♠ A J T 7 4
♥ K T 7
♦ A 9 5
♣ 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9 8 3 2
♥ 6 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ A 8 6

♠ 6 5
♥ A Q 9 5 3
♦ K Q 6 3
♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All Pass			

4 ♥ by South

Baker 2over1 6
North opens 1 ♠ and South, with 14 points, responds 2 ♥. Note that South is not permitted to make this bid without a 5-card or longer ♥ suit.

North, knowing that South has 5, bids 3 ♥ to confirm the trump suit.

South has a minimum strength hand with no slam aspirations, so he uses Fast Arrival and bids 4 ♥. North is also satisfied to just play at game.

2/1 is a good bidding method, and here, 4 ♥ is a good contract. But you can see that it is not a laydown - there is no bidding system that will always reach T0% contracts. In this hand a 3-3 ♦ split will provide the Tth trick, or if that fails, taking 2 ♠ finesses provides a 75% chance of success.

Board 2

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ J T 8
 ♥ Q 2
 ♦ A J 9 5 3
 ♣ 5 4 3

♠ 7
 ♥ A K 7 5
 ♦ K 7 6 2
 ♣ K Q T 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 4 3
 ♥ J 6 4
 ♦ Q T 8
 ♣ J 9 7 2

♠ A K 9 6 5 2
 ♥ T 9 8 3
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A 8

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

4 ♥ by South

Baker 2over1 7

South has 13 points and naturally opens 1 ♠.

North, with 15 points, would bid 2 ♥ in standard bidding, but with 2/1 this promises a 5-card suit. So instead, North responds 2 ♣, forcing the partnership to game. Note that holding two 4-card minors North bids them up-the-line, just as in standard bidding.

South has a nice 6-card ♠ suit, so you might think he would rebid them. But Opener's first responsibility with his second bid is to show a 4-card Major if he has one. This isn't much of a suit, but South still bids 2 ♥.

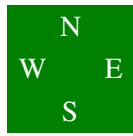
You can see why it is important for Opener to show a 4-card Major. Since North couldn't bid ♥s in her first response the fit would have been lost if South had not mentioned the suit. North now confirms the trump suit with a 3 ♥ bid, and South shows his minimum by just bidding the game.

Board 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 4 3
♥ 7 6 2
♦ K 6 3
♣ A T 4 3 2

♠ A K 9 2
♥ A Q 9 8 3
♦ 8 5
♣ 8 6



♠ Q J T 6
♥ J T 5
♦ 9 4 2
♣ Q J 5

♠ 8 7 5
♥ K 4
♦ A Q J T 7
♣ K 9 7

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

3 NT by North

partnership to reach a game somewhere.

Baker 2over1 8

North opens 1 ♥, his 5-card Major. South, with 14 points, naturally responds 2 ♦, forcing the partnership to game.

North next bids 2 ♠, showing the other Major suit. In standard bidding North would not be able to bid the ♠s since that would be a Reverse and North is far too weak to Reverse. But after a 2/1 Response the concept of a Reverse does not apply, and the priority of showing a 4-card Major certainly does apply.

South assumes North to be 4-5 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She bids 2NT. If North actually has 6 ♥s (or 5 ♠s) he will rebid the suit. South's 2NT bid guarantees a stopper in the fourth suit.

North does not have either 6 ♥s or 5 ♠s so he just bids 3NT. Notice that North never once considered the possibility of passing what might be a misfit - the initial 2/1 response unconditionally forced the

Board 4

South Deals

Both Vul

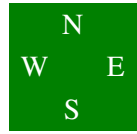
♠ J
 ♥ Q 6 4
 ♦ A J 8 4 3
 ♣ T 9 8 4

♠ K 8

♥ J T 7

♦ 9 7 5

♣ A K J 6 2



♠ Q T 6 5 3

♥ K 5 2

♦ Q T 2

♣ 5 3

♠ A 9 7 4 2

♥ A 9 8 3

♦ K 6

♣ Q 7

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

3 NT by South

Baker 2over1 9

South opens 1 ♠, his 5-card Major. North, with 14 points, responds 2 ♣, a 2/1 force to game.

South next bids 2 ♥, showing the other Major suit.

North assumes South to be 5-4 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She cannot bid 2NT without a stopper in ♦s. So North bids the fourth suit, 3 ♦, telling South she knows she must make a bid, but can't find anything appropriate.

South now must find a bid. His choices include rebidding the 5-card ♠s, supporting North's ♣s with a doubleton Queen, or bidding 3NT with the ♦ K 6 as a stopper. He chooses this last option. It appears that 3NT is the best game for these two hands.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q
♥ -
♦ A J 9 7 6 3 2
♣ 9 5 4 3 2

♠ K J 7 6 3

♥ A Q 7

♦ 8 4

♣ A Q J

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 9 8 5 2

♥ 9 4 2

♦ T 5

♣ K T 6

♠ A 4

♥ K J T 8 6 5 3

♦ K Q

♣ 8 7

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass			

6 ♥ by South

Baker 2over1 10

North opens 1 ♠, her 5-card Major and South responds 2 ♥. North knows this is a 5-card suit, and bids 3 ♥, confirming the 8+card trump fit.

Once the trump fit is known, South revalues his hand to about 19 points. He makes a slam try with a control-showing bid of 3 ♠. He knows North won't take this as ♠ support since the partnership has agreed that ♥s are going to be trumps.

North now shows her control by bidding 4 ♣.

That was what South needed to hear; when Blackwood uncovers two Aces he bids 6 ♥.

The slam is a good one. If either the ♠Q or ♣K is right there are 12 tricks by way of a finesse. But the best way to play the hand would be to try to establish a ♠ in the North hand, and if that fails try the ♣ finesse.