

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 7 5

♥ T 5 4

♦ K 9 3

♣ Q 9 8 5

♠ K T 2

♥ K Q 9 8 2

♦ 8 5 4

♣ A 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 6 3

♥ 7

♦ Q J T 6

♣ J T 7 2

♠ Q 9 4

♥ A J 6 3

♦ A 7 2

♣ K 6 4

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

4♥ by North

only lose one ♠.

If West makes the first play by leading a low ♠ you play low from your hand. East must go up with the ♠A to stop you from getting a trick with dummy's ♠9. Then your ♠K and ♠Q will win two tricks.

Baker Eliminations 9
North is to play 4♥. East leads the ♦Q.

There is no reason to hold up so take your ♦A and pull trumps, West showing up with three of them.

Now eliminate ♣s by playing ♣A, ♣K, and ruffing a ♣.

The stage is now set for the throw-in. Be SURE to lead a ♦ for the throw-in, not a ♠.

The defense will win the ♦ and can then take another ♦ trick if they like. But then they will have to play a ♠ (or give you a ruff-sluff). And as long as they start the ♠s you are assured that you will lose only one ♠ trick, the ♠A.

If he leads the ♠A it sets up both the ♠K and ♠Q so you only have one ♠ loser. If he leads low you also play low from dummy and West must play the ♠J to prevent you getting a trick with the ♠T. Again you only lose one ♠.

Board 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ T 8 5

♥ K Q J T 8 4

♦ -

♣ K Q 4 2

♠ K 7 2

♥ 5 3

♦ K Q J 6 5

♣ T 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 6 4 3

♥ 9 7 6 2

♦ 9 2

♣ 8 6

♠ A J

♥ A

♦ A T 8 7 4 3

♣ A J 9 3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♦
1♥	2♥	Dbl	6♦
All Pass			

6♦ by South

not produce the ♣Q or ♣K. West will win with one of the honors but will have to return another ♣ or give you a ruff-sluff.

In this case though, West's overcall means all things are not equal, so your chances are lower than 75%.

But never mind the percentages for a finesse, the end-play was a sure thing.

Baker Eliminations 10

North's 2♥ bid showed a hand with limit raise or better in ♦s. South doesn't bother with Blackwood since he already knows about the Aces. He just bids the slam. South plays 6♦. West leads the ♥K, won by you with the ♥A.

The bad news is that you have two losers in ♣s. The good news is that missing the ♣K Q you could try two finesses. The bad news is that West overcalled, so he probably has both honors. The best news of all is that you know how to pull off an elimination play!. Play a trump to dummy's ♦K (West discards a ♥) and ruff the ♥5.

Pull the outstanding trump with the ♦A, then play ♠A, ♠K and ruff a ♠.

You want to play the first ♣ from dummy, so enter dummy with a trump.

Play the ♣T from dummy and let it ride if East does

Board 3

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 6 5
♥ Q 9 8 2
♦ T 8 7 6 2
♣ 5

♠ K 4
♥ K T 3
♦ K 9 5
♣ A T 9 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 3 2
♥ A J 7
♦ A 4
♣ Q J 8 7 3

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♠	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

5♣ by South

You would then have been forced to rely on the ♥ finesse, and with East being the defender who showed some strength, you would likely have finessed through him.

About the only way the elimination/throw-in could fail is if the ♣s split 3-0. Then, if you play Ace and another the defender who wins would use his third ♣ as a safe exit.

Baker Eliminations 11

South's cue-bid shows a limit raise or better (11 points) in ♣s. North is to play 5♣. East leads the ♠Q, West takes the ♠A and returns the ♠6 to your ♠K.

After winning the ♠K immediately play the ♣A.

It would have been nice to see the ♣K fall, but it didn't. So play a small ♦ to dummy's ♦A and play the ♠9, ruffing in your hand.

Eliminate the ♦s by playing ♦K, then ruffing your last ♦ in dummy.

You have done all the eliminating, time to throw in somebody. Play a ♣.

Whichever defender had the ♣K is now on lead, but wishes he wasn't. If he plays a ♥ you get a free finesse. If he plays anything else you get a ruff-sluff.

Board 4

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q T 3

♥ 2

♦ T 8 7 2

♣ K J 5 4

♠ A 8 6 2

♥ A T 9 6

♦ A K

♣ 7 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 7 4

♥ 8

♦ J 9 6 4 3

♣ 9 8 2

♠ 5

♥ K Q J 7 5 4 3

♦ Q 5

♣ A Q T

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

6♥ by North

Baker Eliminations 12

Your 3♥ bid is a slam suggestion. After you show the

♣ A partner wastes no time in bidding it.

South is to play 6♥. West leads the ♠K.

Win the ♠A and ruff a ♠ with a ♥ honor.

Play a small ♥ to dummy's ♥9 and ruff another ♠. Both defenders followed to the trump play.

Play another ♥ to dummy's ♥T and ruff the last ♠.

Play the ♦A and ♦K.

Conveniently in dummy, you play a ♣ and insert the ♣T if East plays low.

West will probably win this trick. If he wins with the ♣K then your hand is good. If he wins with the ♣J then he is end-played, forced to either lead a ♣ into your ♣ A Q or to give you a ruff-sluff.

If East just happens to hold both the ♣K and ♣J you will make all thirteen tricks if your first finesse is with the ♣T!