

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ T
♥ A T 8 3
♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♣ A 9 6

22
8 4
6

♠ A K Q 9 8 3

♥ 2

♦ A K

♣ K Q J 8

	N		♠ 6 5
W		♥ J 9 7 6	
	E		♦ Q J T 9
	S		♣ T 4 2

♠ J 7 4 2
♥ K Q 5 4
♦ 8 2
♣ 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

5 ♠ by North

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 1
SOUTH's 3 supporting bid is enough to convince NORTH to make a slam try.

NORTH bids Blackwood 4NT. If SOUTH shows one Ace NORTH plans to bid 6 but

when SOUTH bids 5 NORTH settles for 5

Deal 2

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A 6 4
♥ K J 9
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ K Q

4
23 8
5

♠ T 8 2
♥ 7 5 4 2
♦ 6 4
♣ A 6 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ K Q 9 7 5
♥ 3
♦ 8 7 5 2
♣ 9 8 5

♠ J 3
♥ A Q T 8 6
♦ T 3
♣ J T 7 4

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

6♥ by West

Baker Bidpractice/Set 7 2

EAST makes a positive 3

response to WEST's 2 opener.

This promises at least 8 points and a 5-card suit with two or more honors.

WEST only needs to know one thing - how many Aces in the EAST hand.

A Blackwood 4NT tells her the answer is one, so she bids 6

.

Deal 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ J 8 3 2
♥ T 7 3
♦ J 9 3 2
♣ 6 4

18
2 4
16

♠ K Q	♦ A 4
♥ K 6	♣ K Q J 9 7 3 2
♦ A 4	♠ T 6 5 4
♣ K Q J 9 7 3 2	♥ A 9 8 5
	♦ T 7 5
	♣ T 8
	♠ A 9 7
	♥ Q J 4 2
	♦ K Q 8 6
	♣ A 5

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

6NT by North

Baker Bidpractice/Set 7 3

When SOUTH opens 1NT, point-count alone tells NORTH that 6NT can surely be made.

SOUTH is bound to hold at least two Aces. But NORTH doesn't want to miss a Grand slam.

NORTH bids 4 (Gerber), and SOUTH admits to just two Aces.

So NORTH settles for the small slam.

Deal 4

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ A K Q 6 4 3

♥ K 5

♦ K 7 3

♣ A K

4
22 12
2♠ T 7
♥ Q T 2
♦ J 6 5 2
♣ J 6 4 3

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ J 9 5 2
♥ A J 7 4 3
♦ A Q
♣ 9 8♠ 8
♥ 9 8 6
♦ T 9 8 4
♣ Q T 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

7 NT by West

Baker Bidpractice/Set 7 4

WEST has a powerhouse and knows she will reach a slam somewhere. When EAST

supports the ♠ it seems she has found her spot.

Blackwood tells her that EAST has two Aces.

She can see there are 12 tricks available and decides to take a chance that

EAST will have a thirteenth trick somewhere among his opening hand points.

She bids 7NT.

Deal 5
South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ 7 2
♦ 5 4
♣ A 9 4 3 2

8
6 4
22

♠ J 7 3
♥ A J T 9 8
♦ 8 3 2
♣ Q 8

N
W E
S

♠ A K 2
♥ K Q 6 5
♦ K Q J
♣ K J 6

Baker Bidpractice/Set 5
SOUTH is tempted to go right to 6

when she hears NORTH's positive response. BUT, she should use Blackwood first.

It's good thing she did because NORTH admits to only one Ace - they are missing two Aces.

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

5♥ by South

Deal 6

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K Q 4
♥ A 8
♦ K Q J T 7 3
♣ K 5

6
18 13
3

♠ T 9 7
♥ Q 6 5 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ A 6 3
♥ K T 7
♦ A 9 4
♣ Q 9 8 7

♠ J 8 5 2
♥ J 9 4 2
♦ 6
♣ J T 6 2

Baker Bidpractice/Set 6

WEST not only has 20 points, he also has a lot of winners.

So when EAST jumps to 2NT, showing 13-15 points, WEST uses Gerber.

EAST shows two Aces so WEST decides 6NT will be just right.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

6NT by West

Deal 7

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 4
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 4 2
♣ T 9 8 6 3 2

13
5 3
19

♠ K Q 8 5

♥ J 6 3
♦ 8 7

♣ A Q J 4

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ T 7 2
♥ T 9 7 2
♦ K T 9 5 3
♣ 7

♠ A J 9 6 3
♥ A 4
♦ A Q J 6
♣ K 5

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

6 ♠ by South

Baker Bidpractice/Set 7

When NORTH gives immediate support,
SOUTH's thoughts naturally

turn to slam. This is a good hand to use Blackwood on, so SOUTH bids 4NT.

NORTH's 5

answer shows one Ace, which SOUTH cleverly deduces

must be the A.

SOUTH bids 6 since NORTH has not bid strongly enough to think about 7.

Deal 8
East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 4
♥ Q J 9 8 7 4
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ -

4
8 23
5

♠ 5 2
♥ 6
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ T 9 8 6 5 4

N
W E
S

♠ K Q J
♥ A K T
♦ K Q 2
♣ K Q 7 3

♠ T 9 8 7 3
♥ 5 3 2
♦ T 7
♣ A J 2

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

6♥ by East

Baker Bidpractice/Set 8
EAST expects to bid 2NT at his second turn,
but WEST gives a positive 2

response and his thinking changes! First he supports

s, setting the

trump suit.

WEST then bids 3, showing first round control. EAST tries 4NT (Blackwood) and

WEST replies 6. This shows a void and one Ace, obviously the A.

EAST bids 6

, knowing they must lose the

A.

Deal 9

North Deals

None Vul

♠ T 7 6	♦ A K T 7 5 3
♥ 9 4	♦ K 7
♦ J T 4	♣ J 9 6
♣ A Q 8 7 4	

14	Ace count
7	7
8	8
11	11

♠ K 5	♦ A 8 4 2
♥ A K T 7 5 3	♥ Q J 8 6
♦ K 7	♦ A 9 8 6 3
♣ J 9 6	♣ -

N
W E
S

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

7♥ by North

Baker Bidpractice/Set 9
SOUTH's jump to 4 is a Splinter bid, at least 4-card

support,

at least opening hand, and a Singleton or Void.

NORTH bids 4NT, Blackwood.

SOUTH's 5NT reply shows two Aces and a Void somewhere, obviously s.

NORTH counts thirteen tricks and bids 7

Deal 10

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ -	♦ A Q J 9 8 4
♥ A 9 7 5	♥ 6
♦ K 9 8 6 4	♦ T 7 2
♣ J 9 3 2	♣ 8 7 5

7	♠ T 7 6 2
8 18	♥ 8 4 2
7	♦ Q J 5 3
	♣ A 4

N	♠ K 5 3
W	♥ K Q J T 3
E	♦ A
S	♣ K Q T 6

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

6♥ by West

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 10

EAST figures that if WEST holds two Aces he will bid the slam.

WEST only has one Ace, but she has something else just as good - a void in a suit which

is higher-ranking than

s.

EAST manages to figure out that WEST has a void and bids the slam anyway.

Deal 11

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J T 2
 ♥ 9 5 4 3 2
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ 5 2

8
 7 8
 17

♠ K 7 5 3

♥ J 8 7

♦ A 8 6 5

♣ 7 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q
 ♥ T 6
 ♦ T 9 4 3 2
 ♣ A Q T 9 8

♠ A 9 8 6 4
 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ 7
 ♣ K J 6 3

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

4 ♠ by South

Baker Bidpractice/Set 7 11
 SOUTH may have a good hand but NORTH merely gave a simple raise.

Even if NORTH has a maximum there won't be a slam.

Deal 12

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ -
 ♥ K Q J 8 6 3
 ♦ K J 2
 ♣ A Q 6 5

8
 16 10
 6

♠ A T 9 6

♥ A 7

♦ T 9 7 3

♣ T 3 2

N
W
E
S

♠ K J 8 4 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q 6 5 4
 ♣ 9 8 7

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

6♥ by West

Baker Bidpractice/Set 7 12

WEST has a tough decision after the two Control-showing bids.

If he uses Blackwood and EAST shows two Aces he will be no better off, because he won't know if one

of the Aces is the useless A. Based on knowing that EAST holds the

A,

he bids 6

, hoping that he can at least make that and that 7 isn't a laydown!

Deal 13

North Deals
None Vul

♠ T 4 3
♥ Q 8 5 2
♦ 6 5
♣ Q J 9 5

21
5 4
10

♠ K 6 2
♥ A T 9
♦ A K 3
♣ A K 8 4

N
W E
S

♠ Q J 9 8 5
♥ J 7 6 4
♦ T
♣ T 3 2

♠ A 7
♥ K 3
♦ Q J 9 8 7 4 2
♣ 7 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
All Pass	5NT	Pass	7NT

7 NT by South

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 13
SOUTH isn't sure just how much he can make,
but surely 6

isn't

too much to hope for.

He starts with a Gerber 4 and NORTH shows three Aces.

Hmmm, 5 asks for Kings and NORTH shows three.

Hmm, SOUTH can now count all thirteen tricks, so he forgets about the

slam and bids 7NT.

Deal 14

East Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8
 ♥ J 7 2
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ A K Q T 9 6

4
 11 20
 5

♠ 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ A T 9 4 2
 ♣ 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ A K Q
 ♥ K Q 6
 ♦ K Q 3
 ♣ J 8 7 5

♠ T 9 7
 ♥ A T 8 5 4
 ♦ J 7 6
 ♣ 4 2

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

4NT by West

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 14

WEST has 13 points and can contribute six tricks so she figures that twelve tricks will be a slam (dunk).

However, just to make sure the opponents don't take the first two tricks she checks with Gerber.

Uh Oh, missing two Aces she signs off at 4NT. She could also happily play 5 but it

would be tricky to get there. Very tricky.

Deal 15
South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ J T 9 4
♥ A J T 8 2
♦ J 5 4
♣ 2

15
7 3
15

♠ A Q 6
♥ K 7 3
♦ K 6
♣ K T 6 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ 8 3 2
♥ 5 4
♦ Q T 7 2
♣ J 9 8 4

♠ K 7 5
♥ Q 9 6
♦ A 9 8 3
♣ A Q 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT	All Pass	1NT

4NT by North

Q

were changed to the

A she would bid 6NT and collect her twelve easy tricks.

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 15
Yes, this has nothing to do with Gerber or Blackwood, but everything to do with smart bidding.

NORTH has 16 points and SOUTH has 15, 16 or 17. NORTH wants to be in 6NT if SOUTH has 17,

but merely a Notrump game if she has 15 or 16.

The way to find out is to bid 4NT - not Blackwood but merely an invitation to bid 6NT.

In this case, SOUTH has but 15 points and declines the invitation. If her

Deal 16

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 8 7 6
♥ Q J 7
♦ A J 3
♣ A 8 2

2
16 18
4

♠ 2
♥ T 9 8 3 2
♦ Q 9 7 5
♣ 9 7 3

N
W E
S

♠ K Q J 4
♥ K 6
♦ K 4
♣ K Q J T 5

♠ T 9 5 3
♥ A 5 4
♦ T 8 6 2
♣ 6 4

Baker Bidpractice/Set 7 16

When WEST opens 1NT EAST hopes his hand includes all four Aces so she can bid 7NT.

So she uses Gerber to find out.

But, when she discovers they are missing an Ace she settles for 6NT.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

6NT by East

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 17

Deal 17

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K
 ♥ A Q T 9 6
 ♦ A Q J 3
 ♣ A K
 ♠ J 8 5
 ♥ 8 7 4
 ♦ T 8 6
 ♣ J T 5 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ Q T 6 4 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 9 5 4 2
 ♣ Q 9 8

27
 2 4
 7
 ♠ 9 7 2
 ♥ K J 5 3
 ♦ K 7
 ♣ 7 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	7NT	Pass	

7 NT by North

Deal 18

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 7	♦ A Q J T 4	♣ A Q J 7
♥ K 9		
	♦ A Q J T 4	
		♣ A Q J 7

3	14	3
20		

♠ Q J 8	♦ 9 8 6 3 2	♣ T 5 3
♥ 3 2		
	♦ 9 8 6 3 2	
		♣ T 5 3
		♠ A 6 2
		♥ A T 4
		♦ K 7 5
		♣ K 8 6 2
		♠ T 9 5 4 3
		♥ Q J 8 7 6 5
		♦ -
		♣ 9 4

N		
W	E	
S		

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

7NT by West

Baker Bidpractice/Set 18
WEST is just shy of a 2 opening bid, and when EAST shows 13-15 points WEST

wants to be in a slam.

WEST cannot use Blackwood because 4NT would be a natural invitation, but with EAST's latest bid

being 2NT he can use Gerber.

Two Major Aces and two Minor Kings fill the holes in WEST's hand so he bids 7NT.

Deal 19

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q J 8 4 3 2
 ♥ A 9 6 5 2
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 6

12
7
14

♠ A K 5

♥ 7

♦ Q T 6 5 3

♣ K T 8 4

N		
W		E
	S	

♠ T 9 7
 ♥ Q J T 8 3
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ 7 5 3

♠ 6
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ K J 9 7 4
 ♣ A Q J 9 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♦	Pass	1♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

5♦ by North

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 19
 SOUTH thinks slam may be possible, so she uses Blackwood.

And that's what Blackwood is really good for - keeping you out of slams when you are

missing two Aces!

Deal 20

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ K 4	♦ A 7 6	♥ K Q T 9 5	♣ A 5 4
-------	---------	-------------	---------

4	12	16	8
---	----	----	---

♠ T 5	♦ 9 8 4 2	♥ 7 3	♣ K J T 9 2
-------	-----------	-------	-------------

N		E	
W		S	

♠ 9 8 6 2	♦ K Q J T	♥ 4 2	♣ Q 6 3
-----------	-----------	-------	---------

♠ A Q J 7 3	♦ 5 3	♥ A J 8 6	♣ 8 7
-------------	-------	-----------	-------

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		.

6♥ by West

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 20
WEST knows EAST has at least five sand they might provide discards for two or three

of her minor suit losers.

She tries Blackwood and, sure enough, EAST comes through with two Aces.

Even with all the Aces WEST knows there are not enough points for Grand,

so she bids 6

Deal 21

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q J 9 8
♥ 6
♦ K T 8 7 3 2
♣ 7 3

15
6 3
16

♠ K 5 3
♥ A T 9 5 2
♦ A 9 4
♣ A 4

N
W E
S

♠ T 7 4
♥ 8 4 3
♦ Q J 5
♣ 8 6 5 2

♠ A 6 2
♥ K Q J 7
♦ 6
♣ K Q J T 9

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

7♥ by South

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 21

When SOUTH answers Blackwood with one Ace NORTH decides to bid 5NT to ask for Kings.

With two Kings, SOUTH would bid 6

.
But she knows that if she does so, NORTH might stop right there.

Knowing the 5NT bid guarantees all four Aces, SOUTH figures her suit will

supply five tricks so she bids 7

Deal 22

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 8 7
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ K Q 5
♣ A T 8 3

5	
11	20
4	

♠ T 6 4 2
♥ T 8
♦ A J T 9 2
♣ 7 6

N
W
E
S

♠ A K Q 5
♥ A J 6 5 2
♦ 6
♣ K Q J

♠ J 9 3
♥ K 3
♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ 9 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

5♥ by East

Baker Bidpractice/Set 22
EAST thinks there might be slam if WEST holds both minor Aces, so he tries Blackwood.

When WEST shows just one Ace EAST is afraid he will have a trump loser as well, so

he stops at 5

.

It turns out that EAST might make twelve tricks, depending on the

K situation.

Deal 23

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ T 9 7 5 3
 ♥ T
 ♦ J 8 7
 ♣ Q J 6 2

16
 4 2
18

♠ K 4 2
 ♥ A Q J 8 7 4 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ K 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ Q 8
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ T 9 5 4 3
 ♣ T 8 5

♠ A J 6
 ♥ K 5
 ♦ A Q 6 2
 ♣ A 9 7 4

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	7NT	All Pass	

7NT by North

Baker Bidpractice/Set 7 23

NORTH might be tempted to blast into Blackwood with his first bid, pushing toward some slam

in

s. He chooses to temporize with a 1

response and is rewarded when SOUTH jumps to 2NT (18-19 points).

The Notrump bid prevents NORTH from using Blackwood, but Gerber 4 will work just fine.

When he discovers that SOUTH holds three Aces and one King he can count thirteen tricks.

Deal 24

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 6 3
♥ A T 7
♦ 9 5 2
♣ A T 8 6

2
10 24
4

♠ J T 7 2
♥ J 6 5 3 2
♦ 7 6 4
♣ 3

N
W E
S

♠ 9 8 5 4
♥ 9 8
♦ A T 8
♣ 9 7 4 2

Baker Bidpractice/Set7 24

WEST responds 2NT, showing 8+ points with no 5-card suit.

EAST only needs to know how many Aces are in the WEST hand. He must use Gerber since

4NT in this situation would not be Blackwood.

When WEST shows two Aces EAST bids 6NT.

West	North	East	South
		2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♣	Pass

4♠ Pass 6NT All Pass