

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 8 2
 ♥ J 6 4
 ♦ J 7 5
 ♣ 9 8 7 3

♠ 7 5 4

♥ K 9 7

♦ K 8 6 2

♣ A Q 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 9 6 3

♥ T 8 5 2

♦ Q T 9

♣ J 6

♠ A K J

♥ A Q 3

♦ A 4 3

♣ K T 4 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	4NT	Pass	2NT
All Pass			6NT

6NT by South

Two chances are always better than one. The way to take both chances is to duck a ♦ at trick 2. Win whatever the defenders play next and then test the ♦ s. If they do split your last ♦ will be trick #12. But if they don't split you can still try the ♠ finesse.

to see.

Baker 100NT 33

Partner's 4NT bid is not Blackwood, it is the Quantitative 4NT. He is unsure whether to bid 6NT or not, so is inviting you to do so.

With 20 points you are supposed to pass. With 21 points you are supposed to bid 6NT. The evaluations probably aren't that accurate, but at least you have an excuse to bid 6NT.

East plays the ♣J which you take with your ♣K.

There are two places you might find your twelfth winner. You can finesse East for the ♠Q; this is a 50% chance. Or, the ♦ s might split 3-3; this is about a 40% chance.

If you try the ♠ finesse and it fails you will go down even if the ♦ s are splitting 3-3.

If you play ♦ A, ♦ K then another ♦, a 4-2 ♦ split will defeat you even if the ♠Q was with East.

Board 2
South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ J 7 3
♥ K J 9
♦ Q J T 4
♣ 8 5 2

♠ K 8 6 2
♥ 7 5
♦ A K 7
♣ A K 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9
♥ Q T 6 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q J 9 4

♠ Q T 5 4
♥ A 8 4 2
♦ 9 6 3
♣ T 7

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

3 NT by South

fact hold up and that East does in fact continue ♦s with West following suit.

Don't worry any more about the ♦s since there is nothing more you can do. Instead, worry about where that one more winner is going to come from. The answer will have to be: *from the ♠ suit*.

You might be tempted to take your 4 ♣ tricks right away, but avoid the temptation. The ♣ suit is your convenient transportation back and forth between hands.

You will have to lose at least 2 ♥ tricks in order to set up 1 winner, and by the time you do that the defenders will have established at least 1 more ♦ trick. What that means is that you cannot afford 3 ♥ losers. So how will you play the ♥s?

You should play East for the ♥J plus one of the big ones. This is a better chance than playing him for both the ♥ A K. So play a ♥ toward dummy and insert the ♥T when East plays low. West wins with the ♥A and clears the ♦s. Play another ♥ toward dummy's ♥Q. East can take his ♥K and cash his ♦ winner but dummy's ♥Q will be your ninth trick.

East could hold both the ♥A and ♥K, in which case leading toward dummy's ♥Q would be the winning play.

East could hold EITHER ♥ A J x OR ♥ K J x in which case finessing dummy's ♥J would be the winning play. This is the more likely distribution of the two.

Baker 100NT 34

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2♣. Partner duly replies 2♠. What do you say now?

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2♣. Partner duly replies 2♠. What do you say now?

You don't have a 4-4 ♥ fit, so you invite the notrump game by bidding 2NT. Partner raises to 3NT.

The contract would be 3NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3NT and East leads the ♦Q. Should you win or hold up?

A pretty good argument against holding up could be that they might switch to ♠s. However, say you do in fact hold up and that East does in fact continue ♦s with West following suit.

Board 3

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 4 2
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ 9 7 4
 ♣ J T 7 4 3

♠ 8 7 3

♥ A 6

♦ J 8 5 2

♣ A Q 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q J T

♥ K J 9 7 5 4

♦ A

♣ 9 5

♠ A 9 5

♥ Q T 2

♦ K Q T 6 3

♣ K 8

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

3 NT by North

Instead you should grab the first trick with dummy's ♥A and start playing ♦s. East will take the ♦A but you still have the ♠A and ♥Q as stoppers.

to see.

Don't give him the chance.

Baker 100NT 35

You should not make a takeout double with three cards in their suit. A 2♦ overcall would be a reasonable choice. But with 15 points, balanced, and a stopper in ♥s a 1NT overcall is probably better.

Partner bids 3NT.

As expected, West leads his partner's ♥ suit.

You need at least 4 ♦ winners.

If you play low from dummy on the ♥ lead East can win the ♥K but this will give you an extra ♥ stopper. He could drive out dummy's ♥A at trick 2, but you would then establish ♦s and make an overtrick!

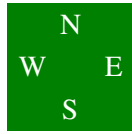
But who said East would play another ♥ after winning the ♥K? What if he wins the ♥K and switches to ♠s? They might then win 3 ♠ tricks to go with their ♥K and ♦A.

Board 4

North Deals
None Vul

♠ T 2
♥ K 8 3
♦ T 8 5 4
♣ Q T 6 2

♠ K 6 3
♥ A T 5
♦ A 7 6 2
♣ A 7 5



♠ A Q J 9 7 4
♥ -
♦ K Q J 3
♣ J 8 3

♠ 8 5
♥ Q J 9 7 6 4 2
♦ 9
♣ K 9 4

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

4♥ by South

East's ♠A! Another ♠ from East won't hurt you since dummy would be able to over-ruff West. Whatever East plays you can win, then finesse West out of his ♥K.

for the full layout.

That was true, so instead you were able to discard it on a loser!

Baker 100NT 36

You would really like to have a transfer bid in this situation, to make North bid ♥s.

But you don't have one, so you just bid 4♥ yourself.

You play low in dummy and West holds the trick. He continues the suit and East takes the ♠Q and then plays the ♠A.

You've already lost the 2 ♠s. If West has the ♥K you might avoid a loser there. You don't have a winner on which to discard the ♣ loser.

If East has the ♥K it will have to be a singleton to help you, so it is more logical to play West for the ♥K. But if West does have the ♥K it will do you no good to ruff East's ♠A, West will over-ruff and you would still have that ♣ loser.

So do it this way instead. Discard the ♣ loser on