

### Board 1

North Deals  
None Vul

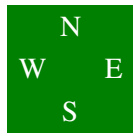
♠ J T 9 8 5  
♥ K J 8 7 4  
♦ -  
♣ Q 9 8

♠ A Q 4

♥ A 9 6

♦ 8 3

♣ A J T 7 3



♠ K 7 3

♥ Q T

♦ J T 9 5 2

♣ K 6 5

♠ 6 2

♥ 5 3 2

♦ A K Q 7 6 4

♣ 4 2

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

3 NT by North

Winner count: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 3 : ♣ 1 : Total = 7

The ♠ lead assures you of two tricks in the suit. So you only need to create two more. If the ♦s split 3-2 (likely) you could get 3 extra tricks there. But there's a danger - if they split 4-1 you wouldn't have an entry to them. Well, you wouldn't have an entry unless you DUCKED the first ♦. Then a 4-1 split wouldn't prevent you from making 5 ♦ winners.

So you win the ♠ A and lead the ♦ 3, planning to duck.

East shows out.

Make PLAN B, then

East shows out.

That's tough. No matter how you play them you can only get 3 ♦ winners. So you must turn elsewhere - elsewhere being the ♣ suit.

Win the ♦ Q but don't play another ♦ yet, you need an entry back to dummy later. Instead, lead the ♣ 2 and finesse your ♣ T. East will win with one of the high ♣s and probably return a ♠. You may as well take the ♠ Q now. Play your ♦ 8 to dummy's ♦ K, cash the ♦ A, then play the ♣ 4, finessing your ♣ J. Fortunately this wins and when you cash your ♣ A both defenders follow. The rest of your clubs are good and you make an overtrick.

When the ♦s turned out to be 5-0 you had to get lucky. Your back-up Plan wasn't likely to work - it required the missing ♣ honors to be split, but also required a 3-3 ♣ split, not a likely outcome.

But there was no other choice so you have to try it.

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You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

With 11 points and a beautiful 6-card suit this is the perfect hand for a Weak-2 opener. So you open 2♦. Partner responds 2NT.

Partner's 2NT bid is a standard response to a Weak 2-bid. You are expected to rebid your suit if you have a minimum (6-8 point) hand. Otherwise you are to bid an outside suit in which you hold a high card - this is called "showing a feature". And the final possibility is this one, where you have a solid suit, either A K Q x x x or A K J T x x. In this case you bid 3NT.

South would play 3NT.

North plays 3NT. East leads ♠ J. West plays ♠ K.

**Board 2**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J T 8 3

♥ 6 3

♦ A J 3

♣ K T 7

♠ 6 5

♥ K 9

♦ 8 7 6 4 2

♣ A 8 5 3

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

♠ A K 7 2

♥ A J T 8 7 4

♦ K 5

♣ 4

♠ 9 4

♥ Q 5 2

♦ Q T 9

♣ Q J 9 6 2

West

North

East

South

1 ♠

Pass

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

4 ♥

All Pass

3 ♥

4 ♥ by North

to your hand and ruff the ♠ 7 with dummy's ♥ 9. East may over-ruff this, but only with a trump trick he was going to win anyway.

You will lose two ♦ s and the ♥ Q but no more.

The problem is that East would have over-ruffed the ♥ 9 and then played another ♥ and you would not have gotten to ruff either ♠,

Baker 100 Deals 86

You are South and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You open 1 ♥, West overcalls 1 ♠ and partner passes.

What do you say?

You shouldn't let West steal from you so you will bid your ♥ s again. You must decide between 2 ♥ and 3 ♥. Given that partner might have had a pretty decent hand yet still have to pass, you decide to go with 3 ♥. Partner bids 4 ♥.

South plays 4 ♥. West leads the ♠ Q.

Losers: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 0 : Total = 5

Win the ♠ K, then enter dummy with the ♣ A and play another ♠ toward your ♠ A. You do this to prevent East ruffing your high ♠. Next you lead the ♠ 2 and ruff with dummy's ♥ K. Ruff a ♣ to get back

**Board 3**

South Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ Q 3 2  
♥ 9 5  
♦ Q 8 7 2  
♣ K Q T 9

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

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

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

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

| West | North | East     | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |       |          | 1 ♥   |
| Pass | 1 ♠   | Pass     | 3 ♥   |
| Pass | 4 ♥   | All Pass |       |

4 ♥ by North

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You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You respond 1 ♠, your 5-card Major. Partner jumps to 3 ♥.

Make your next bid.

Partner is showing 16-18 points and you have 9. Since he rebid ♥s he must have at least six of them you you know there is an 8-card fit. You bid 4 ♥.

South would play 4 ♥.

North plays 4 ♥. East leads the ♣K.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 2 : Total = 4

You might consider setting up dummy's ♠ suit for a discard but there are too few entries to make that work.

More promising is playing West to have at least one of the ♦ honors and taking two finesses in that suit. BUT, entries are still a problem. You can only reach dummy twice, once with the ♣A and once with the ♥Q, and you must play ♦s each time you are there.

Win the first trick with the ♣A and play the ♦J, letting it ride if West doesn't cover. East will win this trick and take two ♣s. He will probably then lead a ♠. You win your ♠A, play ♥A then a small ♥ to dummy's ♥Q. Now lead a ♦ and finesse with your ♦9. When this wins, pull trumps and claim.

This will happen about 75% of the time, so the double finesse is a good Plan. And on this Deal it was the only plan available.

**Board 4**

South Deals

Both Vul

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

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

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

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

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

| West | North | East     | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
|      |       |          | 1 ♥   |
| Pass | 1 ♠   | Pass     | 3 ♥   |
| Pass | 4 ♥   | All Pass |       |

4 ♥ by North

Suppose you discard a ♦ from dummy. If West doesn't ruff this ♣ Then your ♣Q will win. You could then try to establish dummy's ♦Q to discard your fourth ♣ on.

But you know that plan won't work because West IS going to ruff this ♣ if you discard. You only have one chance to make this contract, and that is the chance that West was not dealt the ♥J. So you ruff with dummy's ♥T and pray West doesn't over-ruff.

So you won that trick and still had your ♣Q to use after you pulled trumps.

Baker 100Deals 88

You are North and it is your bid. Decide what you would say, then on BID.

You respond with your 5-card Major, 1 ♠.

Partner jumps to 3 ♥. What do you bid?

With partner's 16-18 points you probably have enough strength for game.

With partner's six ♥s you have an 8-card fit.

So you bid 4 ♥.

South would play 4 ♥.

North plays 4 ♥. East leads ♣A, ♣K, ♣4. West plays ♣8 then ♣2.

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 3 : Total = 4