

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 3
♥ A 8 7 4 2
♦ J 8 2
♣ 9 6 4

♠ -

♥ T 9 6 5
♦ A T 9 6 4 3

♣ Q 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ K Q J 3
♦ K Q
♣ 8 5 3

♠ A J T 7 5 4 2
♥ -
♦ 7 5
♣ A K J T

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

4 ♠ by North

Baker 100Deals 13

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

This is awkward. With 8 points you must respond, but you cannot bid a new suit at the 2-level without 11 or more. Although you are far from balanced you must say 1NT.

You might as well not have worried. Partner jumps to 4♠ and you pass.

North would play 4♠.

South plays 4♠. West leads the ♥K.

Losers: ♠ ? : ♥ 0 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 0 : Total = ?

That 1 ♦ loser is definite. So instead of guessing how many ♠ losers you have, just approach it from the viewpoint that you can afford 2 but not 3.

If the missing ♠s split 3-3 then your life is easy. You play ♠A, then any ♠. Win their return and play any ♠. The defense can win two ♠s but no more.

It's when the ♠s are splitting 4-2 that you must be careful. If somebody has ♠ K Q 9 3 for example you will go down. The one important distribution to guard against is a doubleton honor in one hand. In this case your second ♠ play must be a LOW ♠. When this drives out one honor your ♠ J T can insure that only one more trick is lost.

But if your second ♠ play is a small ♠ East will win the ♠K and you will be left with the ♠ J T to deal with West's ♠ Q 9, holding him to just one more trick.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 6 3

♥ Q J

♦ A K 4 2

♣ A T 6 4

♠ Q 8 5

♥ A 7 4

♦ Q T 9 6

♣ K 8 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J T 9 2

♥ 8 6 2

♦ 8 7

♣ J 9 7 5

♠ A 7 4

♥ K T 9 5 3

♦ J 5 3

♣ Q 3

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

3NT by East

Winner count: ♠ 2 : ♥ 0 : ♦ 2 : ♣ 1 : Total = 5

Although the ♦ and ♣ suits offer the possibility for creating a winner it is evident that you really need to bring in the ♥s. By driving out the ♥A you will establish the 4 winners that you need. The problem is that when you play ♥Q then ♥J a good defender will hold up his ♥A. You could get to dummy with the ♠A and continue ♥s, but you would no longer have a sure entry to get back to those winners.

There is an almost foolproof plan. Win the first trick with your ♠K (saving dummy's ♠A). Lead ♥Q, then ♥J, OVERTAKING WITH DUMMY'S ♥K. Now continue the ♥T driving out the ♥A. You will be able to reach the ♥ tricks with the ♠A.

Baker 100Deals 14

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

You and partner do NOT play Jacoby Transfer Bids.

With 11 points you know you want to reach game since partner has at least 15. However, you aren't sure at this point just which game to reach. If you knew partner held 3♥s you'd choose 4♥ since you would have an 8-card Major fit. On the other hand, if you knew partner had only a doubleton ♥ you would choose 3NT, which would probably be better. So you jump to 3♥. This bid tells partner to "Pick a Game".

He picks 3NT.

East would play 3NT.

West plays 3NT. North leads the ♠J.

Board 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J T 8

♥ A Q

♦ 9 8 4

♣ K 9 6

♠ 9 5 4

♥ T 8 7 3

♦ A Q 6 2

♣ 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 2

♥ 5 2

♦ T 7 5 3

♣ A 8 4 3 2

♠ A 7 3

♥ K J 9 6 4

♦ K J

♣ Q J T

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

2♥ by North

Baker 100Deals 15

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

You may not have had a problem with this opening bid, but be assured that many would. The hand meets all the requirements for an opening 1NT bid, balanced distribution and 16 points. So lots of good players would open 1NT. However, there is the question of the 5-card Major. Another group of good players don't open 1NT when their hand contains a 5-card Major.

So let us agree that either could be right and say that you chose 1♥. West overcalls 1♠, partner says 2♥ and you pass.

South plays 2♥. West leads the ♠K.

Losers: ♠ 2 : ♥ 2 : ♦ 0 : ♣ 2 : Total = 6

You might get lucky in the trump suit and only lose one trick, but you can't count on it. Dummy's ♦ suit has two extra winners, but there is the problem of transportation. By the time you get to enjoy those two winners you might have already lost six tricks.

One thing should be crystal clear. If you now lead a trump the defenders will win and cash 2 ♠s. You can avoid this by waiting on the trumps and playing ♦K, then overtake the ♦J with dummy's ♦Q. Then play ♦A and discard a ♠. Now from dummy you can lead a ♥ and perhaps play your ♥K but even if it loses you will still make the contract.

Make sure you visualize how the play would have gone if you had played a trump to the second trick. When you see clearly the bad things that are likely to happen you will look harder for a remedy. When confronted with a hand such as this many beginning (or careless) players just automatically start trying to pull trumps. And many times they go down on hands that could have been made.

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ 9 5

♥ A 7 4 2

♦ 5

♣ K Q T 9 8 3

♠ Q J T 4

♥ Q T 9 3

♦ Q T 4 3

♣ 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 7 6 2

♥ J

♦ A K J 8

♣ 7 6 4 2

♠ A K 3

♥ K 8 6 5

♦ 9 7 6 2

♣ A J

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

4♥ by East

Losers: ♠ 0 : ♥ 1 or 2 : ♦ 1 : ♣ 0 : Total = 2 or 3

This PLAN looks awfully simple. Win the ♠, play ♥A, ♥K, then give up a ♥. When you get back in run the ♣s.

But when you play the second high ♥ North shows out.

Make another Plan, then

Let's start over. Play ♥K, then ♥A. North shows out. If you play another ♥ South will pull all the trumps and they will start winning ♦ tricks. Lots of ♦ tricks.

So don't lead the third ♥. Leave South with his two master trumps and start playing ♣ winners. South will eventually ruff in with one of his high trumps and perhaps take a ♦ trick. But you have trump control and can get in again and reach dummy with a ruff to continue ♣s. All South can do is get his one more trump.

This hand is much rarer - leaving TWO master trumps out. But you can see that it is the correct technique.

Baker 100Deals 16

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

It is tempting to bid 3NT and hope partner can use your ♣ suit. But you have something very important in your hand - a 4-card ♥ suit.

So you bid 2♣. (Stayman, not your ♣ suit!) Partner replies 2♥. What do you say next?

He who knows, goes. You have 11 points and 4 ♥s. Partner has at least 15 points and 4 ♥s. So you bid the game.

West would play 4♥.

East plays 4♥. South leads the ♠Q.

East plays 4♥. South leads the ♠Q.

Board 5

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q J 9 8
♥ Q T 3
♦ A 9 4 2
♣ T 7

♠ K 5 2

♥ A 9 6

♦ K Q 5

♣ K Q J 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 4
♥ K J 7 5 2
♦ T 8 3
♣ 8 5 3

♠ A 7 6 3
♥ 8 4
♦ J 7 6
♣ A 9 6 4

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

All Pass

3NT by South

North plays 3NT. East leads the ♥5. West plays the ♥Q.

Winner count: ♠ 2 : ♥ 1 : ♦ 0 : ♣ 4 : Total = 7

You need 2 more winners and they will come from the ♦ suit once you have forced out the ♦A. There is a problem though. When the opponents get the lead with the ♦A they might cash 4 ♥ tricks. Of course if it is West who wins the ♦A and if he doesn't have a ♥ to play then all will be well. So you don't take your ♥A on the first trick, nor do you take it on the second trick. At trick 3 you have no choice so you win your ♥A.

Now you can take your 4 ♣ tricks if you like. Then lead a ♦ honor. If they don't take their ♦A on this trick you play another ♦ honor. One of the defenders will win this trick. If it is West you will make your contract, if it is East you will go down.

Notice that if East was the one who had the ♦A then you would go down despite your hold-up play. This PLAN is not a guarantee - but if you follow it you will make the contract 50% of the time. If you don't follow it you will make the contract 0% of the time.

Baker 100Deals 17

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

This sure looks like an opening 1NT hand, except for one little thing - it is too strong. Make sure you open 1NT ONLY with hands containing 15-17 points. For this one you open 1♣. Partner responds 1♠. What do you bid next?

Do not support partner's Major suit response with only 3 cards. It is good to raise partner's Major suit OPENING with 3 trumps because he guarantees a 5-card suit. As a RESPONSE he only promises a 4-card suit, so you should have 4 in the suit to give immediate support.

In fact you have a perfect bid. With a balanced hand and 18-19 points you open 1 of a suit, then jump in Notrump. Holding 18 points you bid 2NT and partner raises to 3NT.

Board 6

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A Q J 2

♥ T 7 4 2

♦ T 9

♣ A Q 4

♠ K 8 6 5

♥ 9

♦ K Q J 4

♣ K J T 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 3

♥ A K Q J 8 3

♦ 8 6 3

♣ 9 6 3

♠ T 9 7 4

♥ 6 5

♦ A 7 5 2

♣ 8 5 2

West North East South

1♦ 1♥

4♥

All Pass

4♥ by West

So face it, North has the ♣K.

However, dummy has some nice ♠ cards. So you pull the last trump, play your ♠3 to dummy's ♠A, then lead the ♠Q. If North puts on his ♠K (which you know he must have) you ruff it. Then enter dummy with a ♦ ruff and discard the small ♣ on the good ♠J. If North doesn't play his ♠K you discard your ♣ loser immediately.

This was a perfect example. After the opening lead it was easy to deduce that all the rest of the high cards had to be in the North hand.

Baker 100Deals 18

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

With 12 points and an excellent suit you overcall 1♥.

Partner raises to 4♥ and everyone passes.

East plays 4♥. South leads the ♦A and the defense wins two high ♦s then switches to a trump.

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

The two ♦ losers are already lost, so you must eliminate a ♣ loser. If South has the ♣K then a simple finesse will win the day. That would be a 50% chance, right? WRONG! That would be a 0% chance. You and partner hold 23 HCP. South has already produced 4 HCP with the ♦A, and if he had 3 more that would mean North opened with only 10 points. Very doubtful.