

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 2
♥ J T 9
♦ A J 7 2
♣ Q T 9 8

♠ K 6 5 3

♥ A 7 4

♦ Q 8 3

♣ A K 4



♠ J T 9 7
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ T 6 4
♣ 7 5

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

Baker SecondHand 1

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♠J, won by dummy's ♠Q. The ♦5 is now played from dummy. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

Considering that North opened 1NT, he must have the ♦Q for this play to make sense.

So if you put on your ♦A, North will have TWO ♦ winners established. If instead you play low, then North cannot get a second ♦ trick and will have to look elsewhere for his ninth trick. As you can see, he is not going to be able to find it.

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 4
♥ J T 5 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J T 9 3

♠ A 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ A Q J 7 4
♣ K Q 7

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ Q
♦ K T 5 2
♣ 8 6 5 4

♠ K Q J 8 2
♥ A 8 7 6 2
♦ 8
♣ A 2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	

6♥ by North

Baker SecondHand 2

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Your lead of the ♣J was won by South with the ♣A. South then played the ♥2 and you must decide whether to split your honors.

When you have made your choice

South's bidding showed at least 5 ♥s, so assuming he holds both the ♥ A Q, it would be silly for him to finesse the ♥9 on the first trump play.

As it turns out, when you play low South calls for dummy's ♥K, East's ♥Q falls and you now have 2 trump tricks. If you had played the ♥T you would have tossed away the setting trick.

Board 3

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q 9 8 3 2
♥ Q 4
♦ T 9 8
♣ A 9 3

♠ A 5
♥ A T 9 7 5
♦ A Q J
♣ J 8 6

N
W
E
S

♠ J T 6 4
♥ K
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q 7 5

♠ K 7
♥ J 8 6 3 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ T 4 2

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	4♥

All Pass

4♥ by South

Baker SecondHand 3
You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♣K, and you played the ♣9 to encourage him. He continued with the ♣Q, then a small card to your ♣A. You then exit with the ♦T, taken by dummy's ♦K.

Declarer then calls for the ♥J. Do you cover with your ♥Q or not?

When you have made your choice

South has 5 ♥s and North must have at least 5. The reason you cover an Honor is that you hope to establish a lower card in either your hand or partner's hand. But your partner has one ♥ at the most so there is no hope of establishment.

Now that you have looked at the hands aren't you glad you didn't cover?

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 3

♥ J T 8 5

♦ T 6

♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ A T 5

♥ Q 6 3

♦ 8 7 4 2

♣ J 8 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 6

♥ A K 7 2

♦ 9 5 3

♣ Q T 3 2

♠ Q 9 7 4 2

♥ 9 4

♦ A K Q J

♣ A K

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

4 ♠ by South

Baker SecondHand 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♥J, covered by dummy's ♥Q and won by East's ♥K. East wins the ♥A at the second trick and continues with a small ♥ ruffed by South.

South then plays the ♠4 from his hand. Do you play low? or play the ♠J to force dummy's ♠A?

When you have made your choice

If South decides to finesse the ♠T then you will still win the one ♠ trick which you are entitled to win.

However, with South holding the ♠Q it would be very logical for him to go up with the ♠A then lead back toward his ♠Q, playing East for the ♠K. If he plays this way you will get two tricks and defeat the contract.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q J 6 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ 9 7 2
♣ 5 4 3

♠ A T 8

♥ K Q 4

♦ A K T

♣ A 9 8 2

N
W
E
S

♠ 9 5 3
♥ 9 8 7 2
♦ 8 6 5 3
♣ K 6

♠ K 7 4
♥ A J T
♦ Q J 4
♣ Q J T 7

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	6NT

All Pass

6NT by South

Since East will definitely win his King, you need to take one trick yourself, and the best way to do that is to split your Honors to establish one ♠ winner.

North has no defense to this, but if you had played low he would have played the ♠T and made the slam.

Baker SecondHand 5
You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥9, taken by dummy's ♥T. The ♠4 is then played from dummy. Do you play low? or split your honors?

When you have made your choice

You should always make a point count check as soon as you see dummy. North's 2NT promises 20 or 21 points, South has 14 and you have 3; total = 37 or 38. Therefore East must have either 2 or 3 points. He cannot have two Jacks because you can see all four of them. Likewise he cannot have a Queen because you can see three of them and his ♥ lead (top of nothing) denied that Queen.

It follows that East MUST have a King, and it must be ♣s or ♦s since he has denied any ♥ Honor.

Board 6

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 9 8 2
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ 5 3
♣ K Q 4

♠ K J 5

♥ Q 7 4

♦ T 7 2

♣ A J 9 5

N
W
E
S

♠ 7 6 3
♥ K J T
♦ K J 9 6
♣ T 7 2

♠ A Q 4
♥ A 8 5
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ 8 6 3

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT by North

as likely as ♣ K Q.

If he does play this way East will win the ♣T and your ♣ K Q will get one more trick.

Baker SecondHand 6
You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠T; low cards from North and East, won by South with the ♠A.

South next plays the ♣3 and you must decide whether to split your ♣ K Q.

When you have made your choice

If you split your Honors, playing the ♣Q perhaps, dummy's ♣A will take the trick and South will later play through your ♣K toward dummy's ♣ J 9 5. Played in this way he will establish 3 ♣ winners (which he needs for the contract).

If you play low, he MIGHT finesse the ♣J and again establish 3 ♣ winners. But South's correct play would be to put on dummy's ♣9, finessing West for the ♣T. This is because ♣ K T or ♣ Q T are twice as likely as ♣ K Q.