

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J T 5 2

♥ Q

♦ A 9 5 2

♣ 9 5 3

♠ A 6 3

♥ 9 7

♦ J 8 4

♣ A K Q 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9 7 4

♥ J T 4 3

♦ Q 7 6

♣ T 8

♠ 8

♥ A K 8 6 5 2

♦ K T 3

♣ J 7 4

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥

Pass

4♥

All Pass

Baker 100NT 26

Who knows whether you should use a transfer or just bid 4♥ yourself. Assume you decide on the transfer and bid 2♦. Partner bids 2♥ (of course). What do you say now?

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Naturally you go ahead and bid 4♥, the final contract.

The contract would be 4♥ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 4♥. East leads the ♠Q and West follows with the ♠9.

You win the first trick with the ♠A.

The loser count is very confused, but that ♣ suit is not confused at all. You want to be able to run the ♣s so your plan is to play the ♥ A K, and if both defenders follow go ahead and knock out the last ♥ so they can't ruff your ♣ tricks.

Unfortunately when you play ♥ A K, East plays the ♥Q, then discards a ♠.

You may think you should change your plan but you should go right ahead with it. West has two master trumps, but dummy still has 4 small ones. So play a ♥ to force out West's ♥T. He will no doubt play another ♠ and force dummy to ruff. No problem, knock out West's final ♥ and dummy will still have one tiny trump left. When you get back in you can run the ♣s unimpeded.

The exception is when you have a long suit you wish to run and you can't stand to have the running stopped by a ruff.

This Deal is unusual in that there are two master trumps, but the principle is the same.

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K T 6
♥ J T 7 6
♦ A 6 5
♣ Q 7 5

♠ 8 2
♥ Q 9
♦ J 7 3
♣ J 9 8 6 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 9 5 3
♥ K 4 3
♦ K 8 2
♣ T 4

♠ A 7 4
♥ A 8 5 2
♦ Q T 9 4
♣ A K

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

3♣ by South

As soon as you get the lead you play the ♥8 and discard dummy's ♠2.

The real reason for covering was so you could establish the ♥8 by force.

Suppose you had not played the ♥Q to trick one. East would have withheld the ♥K and you'd have had to take your ♥A. Later East would have taken dummy's ♥Q with his ♥K, then played a small ♥ through your ♥8 to West's ♥ T 7.

Baker 100NT 27
The 2♠ bid is used as a transfer to 3♣.

If you don't use this in your system, just consider this hand; you might decide to incorporate it. So you bid 3♣ and everybody passes.

West leads the ♥J.

You play dummy's ♥Q hopefully, but East plays the ♥K.

That is one loser too many. The ♣Q MIGHT drop . . . but she won't. There are no finesse positions. So you are going to have to establish a winner somewhere to discard dummy's small ♠.

Do you see it? The ♥8. Take the ♥A. Then play your ♣ A K. As predicted, the ♣Q doesn't fall. Then play a small ♥ to dummy's ♥9. Of course West will take the ♥T, but now your ♥8 is high.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 9 6 4
♥ K 6 5 2
♦ T 7
♣ Q J T 3

♠ Q T 8 5

♥ A Q 7
♦ K Q 9 2

♣ A 6

N
W E
S

♠ A K J 7 3
♥ 8 4 3
♦ A 5 4
♣ K 9

♠ 2
♥ J T 9
♦ J 8 6 3
♣ 8 7 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	3♠

6♠ by North

Baker 100NT 28

You could either use a transfer or you could jump to 3♠. You decide on the transfer and bid 2♥. Partner jumps to 3♠! What do you say now?

You could either use a transfer or you could jump to 3♠. You decide on the transfer and bid 2♥. Partner jumps to 3♠! What do you say now?

The 3♠ bid is a "Super-accept", showing a maximum 1NT opener, 4 ♠s and a doubleton. In other words, partner's hand has revalued to 18 points. So you bid 6♠ (or you could ask for Aces instead).

The contract would be 6♠ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 6♠. East leads the ♣Q, West follows with the ♣2.

You win the first trick with the ♣A in your hand.

There are two obvious possibilities for avoiding the ♥ loser. You could finesse West for the ♥K; this is a 50% chance. The ♦s could split 3-3; this is a 36% chance.

In fact, your chances are better than either of those percentages because you can try the ♦s first, and if they DON'T split you can then try the ♥ finesse.

Pull trumps; East shows up with 3 trumps. Play the ♦K, then a small ♦ to dummy's ♦A. On this trick East follows with the ♦T.

Your contract just became a sure thing! Play the ♣K to strip both your hands of ♣s. Lead dummy's last ♦, and when West plays low, finesse the ♦9. If the finesse wins, discard a ♥ from dummy on your good ♦. But if the finesse loses to East's ♦J, he will be endplayed and have to lead a ♥ into your ♥A Q or give you a ruff/sluff with a ♣. And on top of that your fourth ♦ will be good.

But imagine that the ♦J is transposed to the East hand. He wins that ♦ trick but must give you the contract with his return.

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 9 2
♥ K Q J 9 7 5
♦ K Q 3
♣ 6

♠ 8 7 3
♥ 6 2
♦ 7 5 4
♣ A K Q 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ J T 5 4
♥ 8 4
♦ J T 9 6
♣ J 8 2

♠ A K 6
♥ A T 3
♦ A 8 2
♣ T 9 7 4

West	North	East	South
			1NT
2♥	3NT	All Pass	

3NT by North

If you did then just look at the situation now. If the ♣J doesn't fall on the next trick the suit will be blocked. Now go back in time and play the ♣T to dummy's ♣Q.

That's better. Now under the ♣ A K you can unblock the ♣ 9 7, which will leave you with the ♣ 4 to slip under dummy's ♣ 5.

Baker 100NT 29
Partner's jump to 3NT is a lebensohl method.

He is describing a hand with which he would have bid 3NT if there had been no overcall. But he is warning you that he DOES NOT HAVE a ♥ stopper!

Since you DO have a ♥ stopper you decide to pass and play 3NT.

You hold up your ♥ A until the third round.

You need two more winners. Barring a 4-0 ♣ split your two extra winners will be the ♣ 5 and ♣ 3.

So after winning the ♥ A, you play a ♣ to dummy's ♣ Q and breathe a sigh of relief when both defenders follow suit.

UhOh. Surely you didn't play your ♣ 4 to dummy's ♣ Q???

Board 5

South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ T 8 7
♥ T 4
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ K T 9 5

♠ A 4 2

♥ A 6

♦ A J 8 4 3

♣ Q 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6

♥ Q 9 8 5 3 2
♦ Q T
♣ A J 6 3

♠ K Q J 9 5 3
♥ K J 7
♦ 6 2
♣ 8 4

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

4♠ by North

to determine losers based on the long-trump hand. It's important to remember it in this Deal because the zero losers in ♥s assumes you will ruff a ♥ in your hand.

Pull one round of trumps with dummy's ♠K. Both defenders follow suit. Play the ♥A, then ♥6 to dummy's ♥K. On this trick East follows with the ♥T.

The Plan is still the same, you will ruff the ♥ in your hand, but you better be sure to ruff with your ♠A. Aha! Your precaution pays off when East shows out of ♥s, but of course he cannot over-ruff your ♠A.

When you are ruffing, ruff with as high a trump as you can afford.

Here, with only 2 trumps left out, you can afford the ♠A.

Baker 100NT 30

You decide to use a transfer so the lead will be into whatever holding partner has in the minor suits. You bid 2♥ and partner bids 2♠. What do you say now?

You decide to use a transfer so the lead will be into whatever holding partner has in the minor suits. You bid 2♥ and partner bids 2♠. What do you say now?

You are nowhere near strong enough to be thinking of slam so you bid 4♠.

The contract would be 4♠ played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 4♠. East leads the ♣T. West wins the ♣A. They continue ♣s and you ruff the third one in dummy.

Those losers are based on dummy's hand, not yours. You can figure them either way but it is usually easier