

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K T 8 6

♥ 9 6 3

♦ Q 7 2

♣ J 9 2

♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q T 5 4

♦ 9 4

♣ 8 6 3



♠ 4 3 2

♥ A 8 2

♦ K J 5

♣ Q T 7 4

♠ A 7 5

♥ J 7

♦ A T 8 6 3

♣ A K 5

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

All Pass

3 NT by South

Baker Establishment 17

North's 3♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠6, you play dummy's ♠9 and East contributes the ♠2.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 5

The math is easy - you need 4 ♥ tricks. And you should be able to manage that by driving out the ♥A. But the defenders will probably hold up one or two rounds when you play on ♥s, so you must have an outside entry to dummy.

The ♠ Q J will provide that entry IF you make sure to win the first trick with your ♠A as an unblocking move. If you don't do so then West will be able to keep you out of the dummy and away from those good ♥s.

But if you win the first trick with the ♠A, then dummy's ♠ Q J will provide a guaranteed entry to the good ♥s.

Board 2

West Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 2
♥ K 6 4
♦ T 8 2
♣ Q 6 3

♠ K J 4
♥ Q J T 5 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 8 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 6 3
♥ A 8 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ J T 7 4

♠ A T 5
♥ 9 7
♦ A K 6 3
♣ A K 9 5

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

3 NT by North

Now when you attack ♥s a defensive holdup won't hurt you because you have TWO ♠ entries, the ♠J by a finesse and the ♠K.

So the ♠ finesse is an odds-on play to get a second dummy entry.

Baker Establishment 18
South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠2, you play dummy's ♠4 and East plays the ♠8.

Winners: ♠=3 ♥=0 ♦=2 ♣=2 Total = 7

Needing just two more winners it looks straightforward to establish dummy's ♥ suit. Suppose you win the ♠T and play the ♥9. If the defenders win this trick you are home free. You win their ♠ return with your ♠A, then continue ♥s to drive out their last stopper while you still have the ♠K as a dummy entry.

This won't work against good defenders, who will hold up on the first ♥ trick and win the second. Then when they continue ♠s you won't have another ♥ to return to dummy, so while you can use the ♠K as an entry to establish the ♥s you will never get back to use the good ones.

Instead you should win the first trick with your ♠A.

Board 3

East Deals

None Vul

♠ T 9 6
♥ Q T 7 2
♦ 9 4 3
♣ K Q 8

♠ Q J 8 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ Q T 8

♣ 9 4 3

N
W
E
S

♠ A K 7 5 4 3
♥ J 9 5
♦ -
♣ J T 7 2

♠ -
♥ K 8 4
♦ A K J 7 6 5 2
♣ A 6 5

West	North	East	South
		2♠	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
All Pass			

5♦ by South

Back to dummy with the ♦Q and ruff the ♠2 with a high trump just to be safe. West drops the ♠9 on this trick.

Pull West's last trump and enter dummy with the ♥A and FINALLY discard a loser on the now established ♠8.

Here you needed ♠ T 9 x to be with West if you were to make the contract so you played for just that holding.

Baker Establishment 19

3NT would have been a lot easier, but you didn't get there. South is to play 5♦. West leads the ♠T.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 3

The good news is that you only have one loser to get rid of. The bad news is that there doesn't seem to be a good place to put it.

Unlikely as it seems, your best candidate for establishment is dummy's ♠8. West is marked with 3 ♠s, and having led the ♠T there is a good chance that he also has the ♠9. If so you can ruff it out.

Cover the ♠T with dummy's ♠J, and when East plays one of his honors ruff in your hand. Play a trump to the ♦T, East showing out. Lead the ♠Q. East will be forced to play his other high honor, (if he doesn't you would discard a loser), and you ruff again.

Back to dummy with the ♦Q and ruff the ♠2 with a

Board 4

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 5 3
♥ J 7 6 4
♦ K J 7 3 2
♣ T 5

♠ K 6 4
♥ A 9 3
♦ 8 6
♣ 9 8 6 4 3

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ 8 2
♥ Q 8 2
♦ Q T 9 4
♣ Q J 7 2

♠ A Q J T 9 7
♥ K T 5
♦ A 5
♣ A K

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

6 ♠ by South

You ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy's ♠K and ruff the ♣8, establishing the ♣9 while you still have the ♥ entry.

This was a combination of Suit Establishment and End-play. The lesson on Eliminations contains a lot more of this type of hand.

Baker Establishment 20
South is to play 6♠. West leads the ♠5.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

First pull trumps with the ♠A and ♠Q, both defenders following. Next you must establish dummy's ♣ suit to get rid of one of your losers. If the suit splits 3-3 that will be easy since you have two dummy entries, one to get there to ruff the third ♣ and the other to get there to enjoy playing the winners. But ♣s will probably split 4-2 so the two entries won't be enough. Here's how to make the defenders help you establish the suit.

After pulling trumps, play the ♣ A K, then ♦ A. Next exit with a small ♦.

to see the position.

The defender who won the ♦ trick has a problem. If he plays another ♦ you will get a ruff-sluff, and if he plays a ♥ you will play for the ♥Q and ♥J to be in different hands. So he will probably play a ♣.