

### Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q J 9 7 4

♥ -

♦ K Q J 3

♣ J 8 3

♠ 8 5

♥ Q J 9 7 6 4 2

♦ 9

♣ K 9 4

N  
W E  
S

♠ T 2

♥ K 8 3

♦ T 8 5 4

♣ Q T 6 2

♠ K 6 3

♥ A T 5

♦ A 7 6 2

♣ A 7 5

West

North

East

South

2 ♠

4 ♥

All Pass

1NT

4 ♥ by North

West's ♠ A! Another ♠ from West won't hurt you since dummy would be able to over-ruff East. Whatever West plays you can win, then finesse East out of his ♥ K.

for the full layout.

That was true, so instead you were able to discard it on a loser!

Baker 100NT 36

You would really like to have a transfer bid in this situation, to make South bid ♥ S.

But you don't have one, so you just bid 4 ♥ yourself.

You play low in dummy and East holds the trick. He continues the suit and West takes the ♠ Q and then plays the ♠ A.

You've already lost the 2 ♠ s. If East has the ♥ K you might avoid a loser there. You don't have a winner on which to discard the ♣ loser.

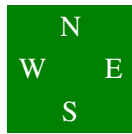
If West has the ♥ K it will have to be a singleton to help you, so it is more logical to play East for the ♥ K. But if East does have the ♥ K it will do you no good to ruff West's ♠ A, East will over-ruff and you would still have that ♣ loser.

So do it this way instead. Discard the ♣ loser on West's ♠ A! Another ♠ from West won't hurt you since dummy would be able to over-ruff East. Whatever West plays you can win, then finesse East out of his ♥ K.

**Board 2**  
East Deals  
N-S Vul

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

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



♠ A Q J T  
♥ A 6 5  
♦ A Q 8 5  
♣ K T

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

West	North	East	South
3NT	All Pass	2NT	Pass

3 NT by West

Baker 100NT 37  
You are the Dealer.

With 20 HCP and balanced distribution you should open 2NT. Do not let the good 4-card ♠ suit sway you to anything else. Partner bids 3NT and everybody passes.

You try the ♥Q, but North plays the ♥K.

You need 3 more winners and at least 2 of them must come from ♠s. Furthermore you don't want North to lead ♣s through your King. Your best hope is that North holds the ♠K so you can finesse.

So you win the ♥A and start thinking about dummy entries. Your obvious entries are the ♦K and ♦J. If North holds only two small ♠s with his ♠K, then two entries will be enough. But what if North holds ♠K x x x ? Can you find a third entry to dummy?

If the ♦s split 3-2 the answer is YES. Play the ♦A, then lead your ♦8 to dummy's ♦J. Watch carefully to see if both defenders follow to this trick. They do. Play a ♠ to your ♠T, which holds the trick. Play your ♦Q to dummy's ♦K. Finesse the ♠ again. Return to dummy by playing your ♦5 to dummy's ♦6, then finesse the ♠ one last time.

That would have been very unlucky.

If you played your ♦5 too early you would not have been able to enter dummy three times even when there was a 3-2 split. That would have been very unsmart.

**Board 3**

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ T 8 5 4 2

♥ Q 9 5

♦ K 8 5

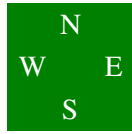
♣ 8 3

♠ A Q 9

♥ A 6 4 2

♦ A T 9 3

♣ A K



♠ 7 6

♥ K T 7

♦ Q J 6 2

♣ Q 7 6 2

♠ K J 3

♥ J 8 3

♦ 7 4

♣ J T 9 5 4

West

North

East

South

Pass

3NT

All Pass

2NT

3 NT by North

you will return to dummy for the two ♣ winners. That means you need TWO dummy entries.

Those two entries can only be the ♠K and ♠J. So you absolutely MUST win the first trick in your hand with the ♠A. Then play the ♣A K. Over to dummy by playing ♠9 to ♠J. Lead the ♣J to drive out the ♣Q. Win whatever they return and play ♠Q to ♠K to reach your two good ♣s.

You can only win 3 ♠ tricks however you play it, so you play to suit your entry needs.

Baker 100NT 38

You have 6 HCP and a 5-card suit. Although you can't be sure, there is a good chance your hand will be useful to partner.

So you bid 3NT.

The contract would be 3NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3NT. East leads the ♠4. You play dummy's ♠3 and West contributes the ♠6.

Make a Plan then

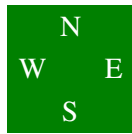
You need two more winners. You can get them in ♣s, but only if you are careful.

After you unblock the ♣A K you will go to dummy and play the ♣J. Then, after the ♣Q is driven out

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

♠ A J 5  
♥ A 6 3  
♦ A K 6  
♣ J T 9 2

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



♠ 7 4  
♥ K 7 5 2  
♦ 9 5  
♣ A Q 8 4 3

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

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

3NT by West

Baker 100NT 39  
With no 4-card Major suit you respond 2♦ to partner's Stayman bid. Partner now bids 2NT. What do you say?

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With a full 17 points you accept partner's game invitation and bid 3NT.

North leads the ♠6 on which South plays the ♠Q.

You need 3 more tricks, obviously coming from the ♣ suit.

But the burning question right now is what do you do at trick one. Do you win or hold up?

You should assume that North holds the ♠K.

If you take the ♠A right now your ♠J 5 will provide a second stopper if it is North who gets the lead. However, if South gets the lead he will play through your holding and you may lose 4 ♠ tricks.

If you hold up you can expect South to play another ♠ through your ♠A J and North will then establish the suit. However, in doing so he will remove any ♠ held by South.

The answer key lies in the ♣ suit. You will be finessing through North, so South is the only defender who can get the lead in ♣s. Therefore you must hold up on ♠s until the third round.

But, if you hold up your ♠A until the third round, South will have no ♠ left when he wins the ♣K.

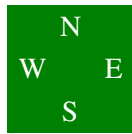
**Board 5**

South Deals

N-S Vul

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

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



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

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

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

4 ♠ by South

Baker 100NT 40

When you are 5-5 in the Majors you can transfer to either suit. Most will say transfer first to ♥s when you have invitational strength. So you bid 2♦.

Partner says 2♥; what do you bid?

When you are 5-5 in the Majors you can transfer to either suit. Most will say transfer first to ♥s when you have invitational strength. So you bid 2♦.

Partner says 2♥; what do you bid?

Now you show your other 5-card Major by bidding 2♠. This one hits the spot and partner raises to 4♠.

West takes the ♥A and returns the ♥6 which East ruffs. East then plays the ♦2.

That's an odd way to show the second ♥ loser but you get the idea. You've lost 2 tricks already and it doesn't look like you can dodge the ♣A. Soooooo, you cannot afford to lose a ♦ trick.

Take dummy's ♦A and then play ♠A, ♠K, relaxing a little when both defenders follow suit both times.

Play your three high ♥s, discarding all three ♦s from dummy. Play your ♣ toward the ♣K. East will no doubt grab his ♣A but the rest will be yours, since you can ruff your ♦ loser in dummy.

But it was very very lucky that the ruffer happened to be the defender with three trumps!

That meant you could pull trumps with two pulls, leaving that one important one in dummy.