

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q T 6 4

♥ J 8 2

♦ K 8 4

♣ Q 8 3

♠ 8 3

♥ 7 5

♦ A Q T 6 2

♣ A K 7 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 7

♥ Q T 9 6

♦ J 9

♣ J T 6 2

♠ A K 5 2

♥ A K 4 3

♦ 7 5 3

♣ 9 5

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

3 NT by South

time the finesse works, and even more happily both defenders follow suit. That means the rest of the ♦s are good and you make an overtrick.

If looked different because of the two finesse you took.

Baker Establishment 13

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠4.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 7

You need two more winners. They cannot possibly come from ♠s, ♥s, or ♣s since one defender must hold at least 4 cards in each of those suits. So your two extra winners must come from the ♦ suit.

There is no reason to hold up on the ♠ since the ♥ and ♣ suits also have just two stoppers. You win the ♠A.

You best play next is to finesse the ♦T. This may gain a trick by virtue of the finesse if West happens to hold the ♦J, but primarily you are working to establish the ♦ suit. Assume East wins the ♦J and returns a ♠.

Again don't hold up. Take the ♠K and lead another small ♦, finessing with dummy's ♦Q. Happily this

Board 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J T 6 4 2

♥ K J 8

♦ T 7 3

♣ K 2

♠ 9 7

♥ 4 3

♦ 8 6 5 2

♣ A 8 6 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8 5

♥ Q T 9 6

♦ Q J 9

♣ T 7 4

♠ K Q 3

♥ A 7 5 2

♦ A K 4

♣ Q J 9

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

3 NT by South

original play of ducking one trick.

Baker Establishment 14

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠4. East puts on the ♠A and returns the ♠8.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 6

Needing three more winners you are going to have to establish the ♣ suit. You are also going to have to be lucky!

You win the second ♠ and play your ♣Q. West covers with the ♣K. What do you do next?

You DUCK. If you take the ♣A now you will never get back to dummy to enjoy those other ♣s. So let West have the ♣K. You win his return, (probably a ♠), and play ♣J, then ♣9 to dummy's ♣A. As long as ♣s split 3-2 you will get the three winners you need.

West's play of the ♣K may have made you want to jump up with the ♣A, but you must stick to the

Board 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K T 8 2

♥ K T 4

♦ 8 7 2

♣ K J 7

♠ 7 5 4

♥ A Q 8 7 5

♦ 9 6 3

♣ 8 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 6

♥ J 9 2

♦ Q J T

♣ T 9 3 2

♠ A Q 3

♥ 6 3

♦ A K 5 4

♣ A Q 6 5

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

3 NT by North

contract or not.

But, it is your only chance to make the contract.

Baker Establishment 15

South is to play 3NT. West leads the ♠ 2. East puts on the ♠ J.

Winners: ♠=2 ♥=1 ♦=2 ♣=1 Total = 6

You need three more winners. It is possible your fourth ♦ can be established, but that needs a 3-3 split. It's also possible that the ♣ finesse will work, and also the ♥ finesse. Since you need the ♥ finesse anyway you should go ahead and try to establish the ♥s.

Win the first trick with your ♠ Q and play a low ♥, ducking in dummy. East will no doubt win a cheap trick but no matter. When you next gain the lead play your other low ♥ and finesse the ♥ Q. Assume this wins (if it doesn't you will be going down for sure). Play the ♥ A and if both defenders follow your other 2 ♥s are good and your contract is made.

to see the full Deal and whether you made the

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q J T
♥ T 9
♦ 7 4 3
♣ K T 7 2

♠ 8 6 5 3

♥ K 5 4

♦ K J T 8 5

♣ Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9 2
♥ J 7 3
♦ A 9 2
♣ J 9 6 5

♠ 7 4
♥ A Q 8 6 2
♦ Q 6
♣ A 8 4 3

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

4♥ by South

duck), and another ♦, (which they will probably take). Win whatever they return, pull trumps ending in dummy, and enjoy your 3♦ winners.

Baker Establishment 16

Some pretty aggressive bidding gets you to a challenging game. South is to play 4♥. West leads the ♠K, overtaken by East's ♠A. East returns a ♠ to West's ♠T, and he then plays the ♠Q.

Losers: ♠=2 ♥=0 ♦=1 ♣=3 Total = 6

With 2 tricks already gone you still have 4 losers. You could consider ruffing the 3♣ losers in dummy but that would just create a trump loser even when trumps are splitting 3-2. So it looks like you will have to establish the ♦ suit for discards. You could pull trumps and then play your ♦Q, hoping the defenders will grab their ♦A immediately. But unless they are real novices they will hold it up one round and you'll no longer be able to reach dummy.

The solution is to establish the ♦s before you use up dummy's ♥K.

Ruff the third ♠, then play ♦Q, (which they will

duck), and another ♦, (which they will probably take). Win whatever they return, pull trumps ending in

dummy, and enjoy your 3♦ winners.

Board 5

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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 6

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.