

**Board 1**

West Deals

None Vul

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

♠ A J T 7 4

♥ K T 7

♦ A 9 5

♣ 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9 8 3 2  
♥ 6 2  
♦ 8 7 4  
♣ A 8 6

♠ 6 5  
♥ A Q 9 5 3  
♦ K Q 6 3  
♣ Q 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

4♥ by South

## Baker 2 over 1 6

North opens 1♠ and South, with 14 points, responds 2♥. Note that South is not permitted to make this bid without a 5-card or longer ♥ suit.

North, knowing that South has 5, bids 3♥ to confirm the trump suit.

South has a minimum strength hand with no slam aspirations, so he uses Fast Arrival and bids 4♥. North is also satisfied to just play at game.

2/1 is a good bidding method, and here, 4♥ is a good contract. But you can see that it is not a laydown - there is no bidding system that will always reach T0% contracts. In this hand a 3-3 ♦ split will provide the Tth trick, or if that fails, taking 2 ♠ finesses provides a 75% chance of success.

## *Board 2*

## South Deals

## N-S Vul

♠ J T 8

♥ Q 2  
♦ A J 9 5 3

♠ 7

♥ A K 7 5

◆ K 762

♣ K Q T 6

N

N  
W E  
S

♠ Q 4 3  
♥ J 6 4  
♦ Q T 8  
♣ J 9 7 2

♠ A K 9 6 5 2  
♥ T 9 8 3  
♦ 4  
♣ A 8

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

4 ♥ by South

Baker 2 over 1 7  
South has 13 points and naturally opens 1 ♠.

North, with 15 points, would bid 2♥ in standard bidding, but with 2/1 this promises a 5-card suit. So instead, North responds 2♣, forcing the partnership to game. Note that holding two 4-card minors North bids them up-the-line, just as in standard bidding.

South has a nice 6-card ♠ suit, so you might think he would rebid them. But Opener's first responsibility with his second bid is to show a 4-card Major if he has one. This isn't much of a suit, but South still bids 2♥.

You can see why it is important for Opener to show a 4-card Major. Since North couldn't bid  $\heartsuit$ s in her first response the fit would have been lost if South had not mentioned the suit. North now confirms the trump suit with a 3 $\heartsuit$  bid, and South shows his minimum by just bidding the game.

**Board 3**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 4 3  
♥ 7 6 2  
♦ K 6 3  
♣ A T 4 3 2

♠ A K 9 2

♥ A Q 9 8 3

♦ 8 5

♣ 8 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J T 6  
♥ J T 5  
♦ 9 4 2  
♣ Q J 5

♠ 8 7 5  
♥ K 4  
♦ A Q J T 7  
♣ K 9 7

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

3 NT by North

partnership to reach a game somewhere.

Baker 2 over 1 8  
North opens 1♥, his 5-card Major. South, with 14 points, naturally responds 2♦, forcing the partnership to game.

North next bids 2♠, showing the other Major suit. In standard bidding North would not be able to bid the ♠s since that would be a Reverse and North is far too weak to Reverse. But after a 2/1 Response the concept of a Reverse does not apply, and the priority of showing a 4-card Major certainly does apply.

South assumes North to be 4-5 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She bids 2NT. If North actually has 6 ♥s (or 5 ♠s) he will rebid the suit. South's 2NT bid guarantees a stopper in the fourth suit.

North does not have either 6 ♥s or 5 ♠s so he just bids 3NT. Notice that North never once considered the possibility of passing what might be a misfit - the initial 2/1 response unconditionally forced the

**Board 4**

South Deals  
Both Vul

♠ J  
♥ Q 6 4  
♦ A J 8 4 3  
♣ T 9 8 4

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

N  
W E  
S

♠ Q T 6 5 3  
♥ K 5 2  
♦ Q T 2  
♣ 5 3

♠ A 9 7 4 2  
♥ A 9 8 3  
♦ K 6  
♣ Q 7

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

3NT by South

Baker 2 over 1 9  
South opens 1♠, his 5-card Major. North, with 14 points, responds 2♣, a 2/1 force to game.

South next bids 2♥, showing the other Major suit.

North assumes South to be 5-4 in the Majors, so she cannot support either. She cannot bid 2NT without a stopper in ♦s. So North bids the fourth suit, 3♦, telling South she knows she must make a bid, but can't find anything appropriate.

South now must find a bid. His choices include rebidding the 5-card ♠s, supporting North's ♣s with a doubleton Queen, or bidding 3NT with the ♦ K 6 as a stopper. He chooses this last option. It appears that 3NT is the best game for these two hands.

**Board 5**

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q

♥ -

♦ A J 9 7 6 3 2

♣ 9 5 4 3 2

♠ K J 7 6 3

♥ A Q 7

♦ 8 4

♣ A Q J

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 9 8 5 2

♥ 9 4 2

♦ T 5

♣ K T 6

♠ A 4

♥ K J T 8 6 5 3

♦ K Q

♣ 8 7

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥

6♥ by South

Baker 2 over 1 10

North opens 1♠, her 5-card Major and South responds 2♥. North knows this is a 5-card suit, and bids 3♥, confirming the 8+card trump fit.

Once the trump fit is known, South revalues his hand to about 19 points. He makes a slam try with a control-showing bid of 3♠. He knows North won't take this as ♠ support since the partnership has agreed that ♥s are going to be trumps.

North now shows her control by bidding 4♣.

That was what South needed to hear; when Blackwood uncovers two Aces he bids 6♥.

The slam is a good one. If either the ♠Q or ♣K is right there are 12 tricks by way of a finesse. But the best way to play the hand would be to try to establish a ♠ in the North hand, and if that fails try the ♣ finesse.