

Board 1
 South Deals
 None Vul
 ♠ 7 5
 ♥ 9 7 4 2
 ♦ 8 6 2
 ♣ 7 6 5 2

♠ K 9 8 6 4
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ Q J 3
 ♣ A K 9
 ♠ T 3
 ♥ K Q 8 5
 ♦ 9 7 5 4
 ♣ Q 8 4
 ♠ A Q J 2
 ♥ J T 3
 ♦ A K T
 ♣ J T 3

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

6 ♠ by South

fails.

If you had not been paying attention to West's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

Baker Signals 19

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. The 2♥ bid was a transfer. The 5NT bid meant to choose either 6♠ or 6NT. South liked the suit. Partner led the ♠ 5, won by South's ♠ Q. South pulls one more trump with his ♠ A, then wins three high ♦ s. Next comes dummy's ♥ A on which he plays the ♥ 3 and West plays the ♥ 9. Then he leads dummy's ♥ 6 which you win with the ♥ Q. On this trick South drops the ♥ J and West the ♥ 2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe South is now out of ♥ s then you should not play your ♥ K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe South when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥ s. In this case an even number must be 4 which means that South has one more ♥ . So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

Board 2

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q T

♥ 9 2

♦ 8 5 2

♣ A K T 6 3

♠ 6 4

♥ A J 8

♦ A Q J 6

♣ 8 7 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 8 7 5 2

♥ T 5

♦ 9 7 4 3

♣ Q 2

♠ K J 3

♥ K Q 7 6 4 3

♦ K T

♣ J 9

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

4♥ by South

Baker Signals 20

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣ A, East played the ♣ 2 and South the ♣ 9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣ 2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣ Q and ♣ J. If East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If East started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣ Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣ Q, then leads a ♠ back to your ♠ A Q.