

Board 1
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ K Q 2
 ♥ K 9 7 2
 ♦ K 7 5 3
 ♣ T 3

♠ J T 7

♥ 8 6 5

♦ A 6 2

♣ A Q 8 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 9 6

♥ A Q T

♦ Q 8 4

♣ K J 7 5

♠ 8 5 4 3

♥ J 4 3

♦ J T 9

♣ 9 6 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	1NT

3 NT by North

Baker Eliminations 13

South plays 3NT. West leads the ♥2. East plays the ♥J which you win with the ♥Q.

This time there is only one suit you can eliminate, ♣s. So play all four ♣s, ending in dummy. They split 3-2.

You now play the ♠J from dummy and let it ride when East follows with a low card. (If East had covered you would win the Ace then set up a second trick in the suit.) West wins with the ♠Q, and guess what?

HE IS ENDPLAYED!. He has no ♣s, and whichever other suit he plays will give you your ninth trick!

Board 2
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ Q 8 3
 ♥ J T 8 4
 ♦ K T 6 2
 ♣ T 2

♠ A T 7 2
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ J 5 4
 ♣ Q J 9 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 4
 ♥ Q 7 5 3 2
 ♦ A 9 3
 ♣ 8 6 3

♠ K J 6 5
 ♥ A K
 ♦ Q 8 7
 ♣ A K 7 4

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

4 ♠ by North

Baker Eliminations 14
 South is to play 4 ♠ after North's Stayman bid uncovered the 4-4 fit. West leads the ♥ J which you win the your ♥ A.

So pull two rounds of trumps with the ♠ A and ♠ K, hoping the ♠ Q falls. She doesn't fall, but both defenders do follow suit. So the ♠ Q is the only trump outstanding.

Next eliminate ♥ s from you and dummy by playing the ♥ K.

Now play four rounds of ♣ s to eliminate that suit. If a defender decides to ruff one of these ♣ s with the master trump he will be end-played, forced to either play a ♦ or to give you a ruff-sluff. So assume that all four ♣ s win tricks.

Now you administer the coup de gras, you lead a trump.

One of the defenders has won the ♠ Q. Too bad for him. If he now plays a ♦ you will make either the ♦ Q or ♦ J. If he plays a ♥ you will ruff in one hand and discard a ♦ loser from the other.

But what if you considered yourself a really good guesser? So good that you felt confident in taking the finesse, and so good that you pulled it off successfully.

You'd be no better off. Although you would avoid the ♠ loser you would now have to play the ♦ s for yourself and you would lose three ♦ s!

Board 3

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J T 9 7 2
♥ K T 7 4
♦ Q 8 2
♣ 7

♠ Q 5

♥ A J 6 2

♦ A 9 6 4

♣ A J 5

N
W E
S

♠ K 8 6 3

♥ Q 9 8 3

♦ T 7 5

♣ 8 2

♠ A 4

♥ 5

♦ K J 3

♣ K Q T 9 6 4 3

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

6♣ by South

you a ruff-sluff. So if these are competent defenders they will make sure that it is EAST who wins the ♠ trick. So he does, and he plays a small ♦.

DO NOT PLAY THE JACK! If the finesse is going to work now it will still work one trick later. By playing low you take advantage of the possibility that East held the ♦ T and West will have to put on the ♦ Q to prevent you taking a trick with dummy's ♦ 9.

Here you had two chances. First, West might have HAD to win the throw-in, either because he had all of the high ♠s, or more likely because he messed up. The second chance paid off when East took the throw-in but you found a fortunate position with the ♦ s.

Baker Eliminations 15

South considered Blackwood, then realized if North showed either 2 or 3 Aces he was going to bid slam. But if North showed just one Ace he would have to maneuver to play 5NT which might be worse than 6♣. So he just bid the slam. South plays 6♣. West leads the ♠ J.

Perhaps an elimination play will improve your chances. Don't lead a trump yet though, you're going to need several entries to dummy to eliminate the ♥ s.

Win the ♠, play to the ♥ A and ruff a ♥.

Play a trump to dummy's ♣ J (both defenders follow) and ruff another ♥ high.

Play to dummy's ♣ A, pulling their last trump, and ruff the last ♥.

Now execute the throw-in by leading a ♠. If West wins the trick he will have to play ♦ s for you or give

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 6 5
 ♥ 9 8 4 3
 ♦ K Q T 5 2
 ♣ 6

♠ A T 7 2

♥ K Q

♦ 9 8 4

♣ K Q 8 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 4 3

♥ T 7 6 2

♦ J 7 6

♣ 9 5 3

♠ K J 8

♥ A J 5

♦ A 3

♣ A J T 7 2

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	6 ♣
All Pass			

6 ♣ by South

Baker Eliminations 16

The slam was easy to bid, now you just have to make it. South plays 6 ♣. West leads the ♦ Q.

Now eliminate ♥s from your hand and dummy by playing ♥K, ♥A, ♥J. BUT BE CAREFUL! On the ♥J you must discard a ♦ from dummy so both of you will be out of ♦s at the throw-in.

NOW you can execute the throw-in. Play your ♦, which eliminates ♦s from both you and dummy and at the same time throws in one of the defenders. Whoever it is will be forced to lead a ♠ and eliminate your guess for the ♠Q or else give you a ruff-sluff, allowing you to ruff in dummy and discard a ♠ loser from your hand.

Perhaps Aunt Harriet isn't that lucky after all, perhaps she just knows how to perform elimination plays.

Hopefully in the future you will be the one with the reputation!

Board 5

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q J 8 7 4 2

♦ 9

♣ T 4

♠ T 7 5 4 3

♥ A 3

♦ A 6 5

♣ K 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ -

♥ 9 6

♦ K Q J T 8 7

♣ Q J 9 7 2

♠ A K 8 6 2

♥ T 5

♦ 4 3 2

♣ A 8 5

West

North

East

South

4♥

4♠

All Pass

1♠

4♠ by North

to everything.

You've done all you can do. Now play the ♥T to West's high ♥.

West has just won his side's first trick with the ♥J. He now plays the ♠Q, winning his side's second trick.

Now, West is still on lead, and he has nothing in his hand but good ♥s. So he leads one of them, and you DO NOT RUFF. Instead you discard a ♣ from dummy and a ♦ from your own hand. West has now taken his side's third trick. He plays another good ♥, and you ruff in dummy and discard the last ♦ loser from your hand. You can now cross-ruff for the rest of the tricks.

You just wonder how many bridge players would have just conceded down 2 on this hand.

Not you or me, of course.

Baker Eliminations 17

When the bidding gets high in a hurry you sometimes have to guess what you can make. South plays 4♠. West leads the ♥K.

And it looks like you are too high. Assuming the trumps split 2-1, you still have one ♥ loser, two ♦ losers and one ♣ loser.

You win the ♥A and play a ♠ to your ♠K. East discards a ♦!

From bad to worse. Now you must add a ♠ loser to the four you already had. Are you finished?

No, never give up. West has a bunch of ♥s and 3 ♠s, so he cannot have many ♦s and ♣s. If you can eliminate those and then throw him in it should work to your advantage.

Play your ♠A, the ♦A and the ♣A K. West follows

Board 6

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 6
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ K Q T 3 2
 ♣ T 8 6 4

♠ A T 9 3

♥ 7 5 4

♦ A J 6

♣ Q 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 5

♥ J T 9 6

♦ 9 8 7 4

♣ J 9 2

♠ K Q J 7 4 2

♥ A Q 3

♦ 5

♣ A K 3

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

6 ♠ by South

Baker Eliminations 18

North's 3 ♠ is a limit raise, 11-12 points in support of ♠s. When you discover that the raise includes two Aces you bid the slam. South plays 6 ♠. West leads the ♦ K, won by you with dummy's ♦ A.

So rather than finesse, eliminate! Pull trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy.

Ruff the ♦ 6, then play ♣ A, ♣ K, ♣ Q.

So here you are in dummy. Do you finesse the ♥ now? Of course not. You play the ♦ J and discard a small ♥ from your hand. West wins his ♦ Q (which his opening lead told you he held) and is end-played. He must lead a ♥ to your tenace or give you a ruff-sluff.

It is a pretty simple problem, but you are no doubt getting a lot better.