

**Board 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ 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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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

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

3 NT by North

the good ♥s.

**Baker Establishment 17**

South's 3♦ bid was a transfer to ♥s, and his 2NT bid showed exactly 5 ♥s with an invitational strength hand. North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♠6, you play dummy's ♠9 and West 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 East 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

**Board 2**  
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.

**Board 3**

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A K 7 5 4 3

♥ J 9 5

♦ -

♣ J T 7 2

♠ -

♥ K 8 4

♦ A K J 7 6 5 2

♣ A 6 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 9 6

♥ Q T 7 2

♦ 9 4 3

♣ K Q 8

♠ Q J 8 2

♥ A 6 3

♦ Q T 8

♣ 9 4 3

West

2 ♠

Pass

Pass

North

Dbl

3 ♦

5 ♦

East

Pass

Pass

All Pass

South

2NT

4 ♦

5 ♦ by North

**Baker Establishment 19**

3NT would have been a lot easier, but you didn't get there. North is to play 5 ♦. East leads the ♠ T.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=0 ♣=2 Total = 3

The good news is that you only have one loser to get rid of. The bad news is that there doesn't seem to be a good place to put it.

Unlikely as it seems, your best candidate for establishment is dummy's ♠ 8. East is marked with 3 ♠s, and having led the ♠ T there is a good chance that he also has the ♠ 9. If so you can ruff it out.

Cover the ♠ T with dummy's ♠ J, and when West plays one of his honors ruff in your hand. Play a trump to the ♦ T, West showing out. Lead the ♠ Q. West will be forced to play his other high honor, (if he doesn't you would discard a loser), and you ruff again.

Back to dummy with the ♦ Q and ruff the ♠ 2 with a high trump just to be safe. East drops the ♠ 9 on this trick.

Pull East's last trump and enter dummy with the ♥ A and FINALLY discard a loser on the now established ♠ 8.

Here you needed ♠ T 9 x to be with East if you were to make the contract so you played for just that holding.

**Board 4**

North Deals

None Vul

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

♠ K 6 4

♥ A 9 3

♦ 8 6

♣ 9 8 6 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 2

♥ Q 8 2

♦ Q T 9 4

♣ Q J 7 2

♠ A Q J T 9 7

♥ K T 5

♦ A 5

♣ A K

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

6♠ by South

**Baker Establishment 20**

South is to play 6♠. West leads the ♠5.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=1 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 2

First pull trumps with the ♠A and ♠Q, both defenders following. Next you must establish dummy's ♣ suit to get rid of one of your losers. If the suit splits 3-3 that will be easy since you have two dummy entries, one to get there to ruff the third ♣ and the other to get there to enjoy playing the winners. But ♣s will probably split 4-2 so the two entries won't be enough. Here's how to make the defenders help you establish the suit.

After pulling trumps, play the ♣ A K, then ♦ A. Next exit with a small ♦.

to see the position.

The defender who won the ♦ trick has a problem. If he plays another ♦ you will get a ruff-sluff, and if he plays a ♥ you will play for the ♥Q and ♥J to be in different hands. So he will probably play a ♣.

You ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy's ♠K and ruff the ♣8, establishing the ♣9 while you still have the ♥ entry.

This was a combination of Suit Establishment and End-play. The lesson on Eliminations contains a lot more of this type of hand.