

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 5 2

♥ A Q 6 4 3

♦ 7 4

♣ T 6 3

♠ A K

♥ T 9 7

♦ T 9 6 2

♣ K Q 8 5



♠ J 9 7 4 3

♥ 5 2

♦ A 8 5

♣ 9 7 4

♠ Q T 6
 ♥ K J 8
 ♦ K Q J 3
 ♣ A J 2

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1NT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

3 NT by North

already won.

Baker SecondHand 9

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥4, won by South's ♥8.

South enters dummy with the ♠K and leads the ♦T. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

You don't have much in your hand, but you do have the ♦A, and you also have the responsibility to help West set up his suit.

So even though you don't know for sure how good that suit is, your plan of action should be to take the ♦A and return a ♥.

As you see, this will defeat the contract. Had you played a low ♦ South would have pocketed that trick and added 4 ♣s and 3 ♠s to go with the ♥ he had already won.

Board 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K T 8 7 4

♥ J 8 7 2

♦ T 2

♣ K J

♠ 9 5 3

♥ A Q

♦ A 6

♣ Q T 9 8 5 2



♠ 6 2

♥ T 9 4

♦ Q J 8 7 4

♣ A 7 4

♠ A Q J

♥ K 6 5 3

♦ K 9 5 3

♣ 6 3

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

3 NT by South

East will win the ♣A and return his ♠ through South's ♠ A Q. This allows you to set up your ♠ suit while you still have the ♣K for an entry.

Baker SecondHand 10

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠ 7; ♠ 3, ♠ 2 and won by South with ♠Q.

South then plays the ♣6 from his hand. Which ♣ should you play?

When you have made your choice

You should not allow yourself to be misled by South winning the first trick with the ♠Q. East does not hold either the ♠A or the ♠J or he would have played it. South is just trying to be deceptive.

That means you need the next ♠ play to come from East, so you play your ♣J and let East win his ♣A. You can be sure East has the ♣A because South would have played the suit differently if he held the Ace.

Board 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q T 8 5 3 2

♥ 7 3

♦ Q J T

♣ 9 4

♠ K 6

♥ 8 5 2

♦ 9 7 5 4 2

♣ Q 7 3

| | |
|---|-------------|
| N | ♠ 7 |
| W | ♥ 9 6 4 |
| E | ♦ K 8 6 3 |
| S | ♣ J T 8 6 2 |

♠ A J 9 4
 ♥ A K Q J T
 ♦ A
 ♣ A K 5

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 6♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

6♥ by South

trumps. That would leave one trump in dummy to ruff his ♠J, his only remaining loser.

Baker SecondHand 11

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♦Q, you signaled with the ♦8 and South won the ♦A.

South then played low to dummy's ♠K, and led dummy's ♠6. Your decision is not whether to play high or low, but whether to ruff or not, which amounts to the same thing.

When you have made your choice

Even though South holds the ♠A, if you ruff now he will just put on a small ♠ and you will be ruffing a loser. Instead discard a ♦.

South will win the ♠A, but will not be able to ruff any ♠ losers in dummy because your trumps can overruff any of North's trumps.

Suppose you had ruffed the ♠. South would have played his ♠9, leaving himself with ♠ A J. He would then get the lead and pull your two remaining

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 9 2

♥ Q 3

♦ Q J T 6

♣ K Q J 8

♠ J 6 3

♥ A K T 9 8

♦ 8 2

♣ T 9 4


 ♠ A T 7 4
 ♥ J 6 5 2
 ♦ 9 5 4
 ♣ 5 3

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♦ |
| All Pass | | | 1NT |

1 NT by South

Baker SecondHand 12

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♣K and continue with the ♣J then ♣Q, taken by South's ♣A. To trick 4 South plays the ♥4. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

To see why you should play the ♥Q, just visualize the result if you play low. South will finesse with dummy's ♥8. If East wins his ♥J on this trick there will be 4 good ♥ tricks in dummy. If East withholds his ♥J then Declarer will have 3 ♥ winners.

Now visualize the result of playing the ♥Q. Whether South takes this trick or not he cannot win more than 2 ♥s.