

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A T 9

♥ A 3

♦ K J T 7 5 4

♣ J 9

♠ Q 7 4

♥ Q T 9 6 5

♦ 8 3

♣ A 8 3



♠ 8 6 3 2

♥ 8 4 2

♦ Q 2

♣ 7 6 5 4

♠ K J 5

♥ K J 7

♦ A 9 6

♣ K Q T 2

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

4♥ by South

Baker Leben 17

With 9 points you don't want to sign-off with 2♥.

But you aren't strong enough to force to game with a 3♥ bid either. So you start an invitational sequence by bidding 2NT.

Partner says 3♣. What do you bid?

Now you bid 3♥. Partner will realize you have better than a sign-off, but were not good enough to bid 3♥ immediately. He has a maximum, and he knows you have a 5-card suit, so he bids 4♥.

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 4

♥ A K Q 5 3 2

♦ J 4 2

♣ 9 6

♠ A J 6 3

♥ 9 4

♦ A 8 5

♣ K J T 3



♠ T 8 7 2

♥ J 7 6

♦ T 9 6

♣ 8 5 2

♠ K Q 5

♥ T 8

♦ K Q 7 3

♣ A Q 7 4

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

5♣ by North

Baker Leben 18

Partner's bid asks if you have 4 ♠s, and denies a ♥ stopper. (DIRECT DENIES)

You don't have 4 ♠s, nor can you stop ♥s. You have no choice but to bid one of the 4-card Minor suits, so you go up-the-line and bid 4♣. Partner bids 5♣.

Board 3

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K 7 3
♥ A 9 5 2
♦ Q 5
♣ A K J 5

♠ J T 5
♥ K J 3
♦ K T 8 6 4 3
♣ Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 8
♥ 7 6 4
♦ A J 9 7
♣ T 9 6 4

♠ Q 9 6 4 2
♥ Q T 8
♦ 2
♣ 8 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♦	Dbl	All Pass

2♦ X by North

Baker Leben 19

It is possible your side can make 3NT on this deal. You have 9 points, invitational strength, and your ♦ stopper is excellent.

However you should look for an even bigger reward by doubling. North is in serious trouble, and when the opponents make a mistake you should punish them.

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 5 2

♥ 9 5 3 2

♦ K Q J 6 3 2

♣ -

♠ Q T 8 4

♥ K 6

♦ A T 7

♣ K T 8 3



♠ 7 6

♥ J T 4

♦ 8 4

♣ J 9 6 5 4 2

West

North

East

South

2♦

2NT

Pass

1NT

Pass

3♦

Pass

3♣

Pass

3NT

Pass

3♥

All Pass

4♠ by South

Baker Leben 20

Partner's 2NT bid requests that you bid 3♣, so you do. He next says 3♦.

Partner's bid is game-forcing Stayman, but with a ♦ stopper (SLOW SHOWS). Holding 4 cards in each Major you bid up-the-line, 4♥. Partner now bids 3NT. What do you say?

Partner would not have asked for a 4-card Major unless he held one himself. Since it wasn't ♥s it must be the other one. You bid 4♠.