

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q T 8 4
♥ Q J 9
♦ K 9 5 2
♣ 9 3

♠ K 9 3
♥ A 7 6 5 4
♦ J 8
♣ Q 7 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ T 6 4
♣ A K T 5

♠ A
♥ K T 8 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ J 8 6 2

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

4♥ by North

Baker Signals 5

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♣A, dummy played the ♣2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you signal with the ♣9 East will continue with the ♣K and another which you will have to ruff. You will give up your NATURAL trump trick by doing so. Worse, you will allow South's ♣J to be established as a winner that North can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and North will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦K, return the ♣9 back to East's ♣K, and still have your trump trick for later.

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q T 7

♥ T 9

♦ 9 7 2

♣ K 8 4

♠ J 6 4 2

♥ J 6 3

♦ A J 6

♣ T 7 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 3

♥ 5 4

♦ Q T 8 3

♣ J 9 6 5 2

♠ 8 5

♥ A K Q 8 7 2

♦ K 5 4

♣ A Q

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♥	Pass	1♥
All Pass			

4♥

4♥ by South

Baker Signals 6

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠A, East plays the ♠9, South the ♠5. You assume East has signaled you to continue ♠s, so you play the ♠Q. On this trick East plays the ♠3 and South the ♠8. How will you continue?

When you have made your choice

You might just switch suits, but you have a better choice.

If you play your ♠Q, East won't bother ruffing, South WILL ruff and dummy's ♠J will be established as a winner.

The best procedure is to lead a low ♠. East will ruff and South will over-ruff but by playing this way you stop the establishment of North's ♠J. As you can see, South would have been able to discard a loser on that ♠J if you hadn't played this way.

Board 3

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A T 5 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ A 7 3
♣ J 6 2

♠ Q 7 4
♥ A K 4
♦ J 6
♣ A K Q T 4

N
W E
S

♠ K 9 6 3
♥ Q J T 7
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 8 3

♠ J 8
♥ 9 6 2
♦ K Q T 9 4
♣ 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

that North started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

This defense holds North to one ♦ tricks, if you had let him win the second one he would have had 9 tricks.

Baker Signals 7

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥Q, you played low and North won the ♥A.

North now plays the ♦J on which East plays the ♦2. What do you play now, and what is your plan.

When you have made your choice

South hoped his ♦ suit would provide enough tricks to make the game. You can see that there is no entry to the South hand EXCEPT in ♦s, so you want to win your ♦A on the trick that North plays his last ♦. How can you tell which trick that is?

Only by watching what East plays. On the ♦J East played the ♦2, a low card signaling that he held an ODD number of ♦s. ODD must be either one or three so when he followed to the next ♦ you know he started with three. A little bit of counting tells you

Board 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 5
♥ Q T 6 4
♦ K 7 2
♣ T 5 2

♠ K Q 9 3

♥ 8 7 3

♦ Q 6

♣ 9 7 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 7 2
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ A 8 4 3
♣ 8 3

♠ J T 4
♥ A K
♦ J T 9 5
♣ A K Q J

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3 NT by North

Baker Signals 8

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥4, East plays the ♥J, won by South with ♥A.

South plays the ♠J, you follow with ♠5, dummy ♠3 and East plays the ♠2. South continues with the ♠T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♠2 tells you he had an ODD number of ♠s, obviously 3. Since South also must have 3, you must take your ♠A on the third round, depriving dummy of the extra ♠ trick.

South may now turn to the ♦ suit, but your side can win the first ♦ and drive out South's ♥K. You will win 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and the ♠A, down 1