

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ -
♥ 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

N
W
E
S

♠ 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

West	North	East	South
	1♠	4♥	4♠

All Pass

4 ♠ by South

to everything.

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

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

Now, East 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. East 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. North plays 4♠. East 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. West 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. East 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. East follows

Board 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 6	♠ A T 9 3
♥ K 8 2	♥ 7 5 4
♦ K Q T 3 2	♦ A J 6
♣ T 8 6 4	♣ Q 7 5

♠ 8 5	♠ A T 9 3
♥ J T 9 6	♥ 7 5 4
♦ 9 8 7 4	♦ A J 6
♣ J 9 2	♣ Q 7 5

N	W	E
S		

♠ 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.

Board 3

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ J T 2
♥ 9 8 3
♦ J T 4
♣ 9 6 4 2

♠ K 6
♥ A K J T 5 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ A T

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 7 4
♥ 6
♦ A Q 8
♣ K Q J 7 5

♠ A 8 5 3
♥ Q 7 4
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ 8 3

West	North	East	South
		1♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

4♥ by South

Baker Eliminations 19

South realizes that to make a takeout double, then jump in your own suit you must have a very good hand. So he bids the game. North plays 4♥. East leads the ♣K, which you take with the ♣A.

Play one round of trumps with the ♥A. You can't play any more because you will need an entry to dummy for the elimination.

Next play ♠K, ♠A and ruff a ♠ high.

Lead a ♥ to dummy's ♥Q. East shows out. Play dummy's last ♠. West is now void, so if he ruffs you over-ruff. Otherwise you ruff with a small trump.

Now throw East in (you hope!) with the ♣T.

Fortunately East has to take the ♣T. Since he has nothing left but ♣s and ♦s he must lead one or the other. A ♦ lead will give you a trick with your ♦K and a ♣ lead will allow you to ruff in dummy (West still has a ♣) and discard a ♦ from your hand.

It was not a complete elimination since West still had a trump when you threw East in. However, it worked because East was out of both ♠s and ♥s.

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 4
♥ K J 9 5
♦ Q J T 4
♣ Q T 9 2

♠ J T 9 7 5

♥ 7

♦ K 8 6 3

♣ K 5 3

N
W
E
S

♠ 8

♥ Q T 8 4 2

♦ A 9 5 2

♣ A J 8

♠ A K Q 6 3 2
♥ A 6 3
♦ 7
♣ 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
			1♠

Pass	4♠	All Pass	
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4 ♠ by North

instead discard a ♣ from your hand. You knew all along that he held the ♦ A.

East is end-played, forced to either break the ♣s and give you a ♣ trick, or give you a ruff-sluff.

It also depended upon the defenders not switching to ♣s at the second trick. If West had decided to switch to the ♣Q you would have had no chance at all.

Baker Eliminations 20

South is to play 4♠. West leads the ♦ Q.

The contract is in danger if East holds the ♣ A because you would have three ♣ losers to go with the ♦ already lost. One really good possibility is that East now has the lone ♦ A and you can set up dummy's ♦ K with a ruff.

So play a small ♠ to dummy's ♠ 9, (pulling the two outstanding trumps), and ruff another ♦ with an honor, hoping the ♦ A drops.

Too bad, the ♦ A did not fall so dummy's ♦ K is not a winner. But it will still prove to be useful.

Play the ♥ A, then ruff a ♥ in dummy. Play a trump to your ♠ A and ruff your last ♥.

You are in dummy, just where you want to be. Play the ♦ K, and when East plays the ♦ A don't ruff but