

**Board 1**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 9 2

♥ Q T 9 3

♦ T 9 5 2

♣ 6

♠ A 6 4 3

♥ A J 4

♦ A J

♣ A K 8 3



♠ Q 8 5

♥ K 7 2

♦ 8 6 4

♣ Q T 7 5

♠ T 7

♥ 8 6 5

♦ K Q 7 3

♣ J 9 4 2

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

3 NT by South

♦ s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

You probably would have played the hand the same way you just did, unblock ♦ s, then play ♣ A K and a low ♣ toward the ♣ J 9 trying to get a ♣ entry to dummy.

It is only because the ♣ opening lead gives you the chance for a Cheap-Trick that you are tempted to go wrong.

**Baker Entries 7**

North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♣ 5. You play low from dummy and West plays the ♣ 6.

Winners: ♠ = 1    ♥ = 1    ♦ = 4?    ♣ = 3 Total = 9

Although you have 4 ♦ winners, getting to the last couple might not be so easy. You can make 3 ♦ tricks simply by winning your ♦ A, then overtaking your ♦ J with dummy's ♦ Q. But you need that fourth ♦ winner. Can you get it?

Sure you can, by creating an entry in ♣ s. It is likely from the opening lead, (and West's play of a small card), that East has led from ♣ Q T 7 5. If you win the first trick cheaply then you will still make your ♣ A K for three ♣ tricks in all.

So don't win cheaply, win the first trick with the ♣ A. Then unblock your ♦ A J. Next play ♣ K. (on which West discards), and a small ♣ toward dummy's ♣ J 9. You are sure to have a ♣ entry to dummy's ♣ s, and you will still get three ♣ tricks, just a different three.

**Board 2**

West Deals

N-S Vul

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

♠ K 7 4 2

♥ Q T 8 6

♦ T 7

♣ K 9 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 6  
♥ K 5 2  
♦ K Q J 5  
♣ A Q J 4

♠ Q J T 9 5  
♥ A 9 3  
♦ 9 8 3  
♣ T 8

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

3NT by West

you know there is only a single ♦ left out, so you play the ♦J to dummy's ♦A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦5 to dummy's ♦6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

Then your chance of success goes way down. You would have to find North with the doubleton ♣K.

**Baker Entries 8**

East is to play 3NT. South leads the ♠Q. North plays the ♠K, then the ♠2 when you hold up.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=0 ♦=4 ♣=1 Total = 6

You are going to have to be pretty lucky to make this contract. You cannot touch the ♥ suit because a defender would take the ♥A and it would start raining ♠s.

So you will have to get 3 extra ♣ winners, which means the ♣ finesse absolutely MUST work.

In addition to lucky, you are going to have to be pretty good, too. You will surely have to finesse the ♣s at least twice; that means you need two dummy entries. Can you find them?

Maybe in ♦s. Play the ♦K, then ♦Q, watching the defender's cards carefully. When both follow twice

you know there is only a single ♦ left out, so you play the ♦J to dummy's ♦A. Now take the ♣ finesse. It works! Next play your ♦5 to dummy's ♦6 and take another ♣ finesse. Both defenders follow so your ♣s are good.

**Board 3**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 6 2  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ Q J T 2  
♣ T 3

♠ A K Q 7 3

♥ 7 6 4

♦ 8 5 3

♣ 9 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ -  
♥ A 5 2  
♦ A K 6  
♣ A K Q J 7 5 4

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

6♣ by South

enter dummy with the ♣9. This play is guaranteed to give you the entry and is the one you should choose.

When you are missing 4 cards the probability of a 3-1 split is about 50%.

But the singleton can be any one of four cards - in this case it can be the ♣T, ♣6, ♣3 or ♣2. So the chance of one of the opponents holding specifically the singleton ♣T is only one-fourth of 50%, about 12.5%.

Baker Entries 9  
South is to play 6♣. West leads the ♦Q.

Losers: ♠=0 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=0 Total = 3

Partner's hand didn't turn out to be what you hoped for, you had in mind maybe the ♥K and ♦Q.

But this is what you got. First, be thankful West led a ♦ rather than a ♥. Second, see if you can find a way to fight yourself over to dummy and those three beautiful ♠s.

You have two possibilities for a ♣ entry, but you can only try one of them as you will see.

You can play a high ♣ and hope somebody plays the singleton ♣T. Then your ♣9 would be an entry. If this works you would probably make all 13 tricks, but the chances are very slim.

You can play a low ♣ to dummy's ♣8. Assuming a defender takes the ♣T you can win his return and

**Board 4**

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ 8 3

♥ A K J 9 8 7

♦ K T 4 3

♣ A

♠ A K J 7 4

♥ 3

♦ J 9 8 2

♣ T 6 2



♠ 9

♥ Q T 4

♦ 6 5

♣ K Q J 8 7 5 3

♠ Q T 6 5 2

♥ 6 5 2

♦ A Q 7

♣ 9 4

West      North      East      South

1♥

Pass

2♣

Pass

3♥

Pass

4♥

All Pass

4♥ by East

rounds ending in dummy. And run all those ♣ tricks. If North plays a trump or a ♣ the result will be the same. The defense can get one ♦ trick if they take it right now, but you still make your contract.

Baker Entries 10  
West is to play 4♥. North leads the ♠A, then ♠K.

Losers: ♠ = 1    ♥ = 0    ♦ = 3?    ♣ = 0 Total = 4?

This is the kind of hand that can get really messy if you aren't careful. You could ruff the ♠, then try to ruff some ♦s, but the defense can prevent you by leading trumps when you give up the ♦ tricks.

All in all a much better plan is to use dummy's ♣ suit after you unblock the Ace. The only flaw with that idea is that when you ruff the ♠, unblock the ♣A, then play two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, there will still be a trump left out. And the defender might ruff a ♣ before you can take the discards you need. Do you see a way around this?

Do NOT ruff the second ♠ in dummy, just discard a ♦. If North plays a third ♠ you will ruff in your hand, then unblock the ♣A, then pull trumps in 3

**Board 5**

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K J 9

♥ T 9 8 2

♦ K 9 3

♣ A 8 4

♠ A 8 2

♥ A K 6

♦ A Q J 7

♣ K 6 2



♠ T 6 5 3

♥ Q 7 4

♦ T 8

♣ J 9 5 3

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

which holds. Play another ♣ to dummy and finesse another ♦. Now play your ♦ A and smile when the ♦ K drops and your fourth ♦ becomes a winner.

By unblocking the ♣ K you were still pretty confident that you would get the two tricks, but the bonus was in the extra dummy entry your unblock created.

**Baker Entries 11**

North is to play 3NT. East leads the ♣ 3, West plays the ♣ A.

Winners: ♠=1 ♥=2 ♦=1 ♣=2 Total = 6

You have the possibility of one additional ♠ winner if East holds the ♠ K. However, ♦ s is your best suit and if West holds the ♦ K you could gain all three winners that you need from that suit. But of course you need perhaps 2 dummy entries. Do you have them?

Well, you probably do. East's small ♣ lead probably indicates an honor, and with West playing the ♣ A you can be pretty sure that East holds the ♣ J. So by playing your ♣ K underneath the ♣ A you set up a second entry to dummy via the ♣ finesse.

Assume West now plays a ♥. Take your ♥ A and play a ♣ to dummy's ♣ T. Lead a ♦ and finesse the ♦ J,

Now play your ♦ A and smile when the ♦ K

**Board 6**

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q J

♥ A Q 6

♦ 8 4

♣ Q J 9 8 5 3

♠ A 6 4

♥ 9 7 4 2

♦ Q T 6

♣ K 7 4



♠ K T 9 8 3

♥ K J

♦ K 7 3

♣ A T 2

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

3 NT by West

The ♣ suit is ready to run, so play your ♥K to dummy's ♥A and take your ♣ winners. You took 9 tricks in all, the ♦K, the ♥A Q and all 6 ♣s.

Since it gave you all 6 ♣ tricks the sacrifice was well worth it.

**Baker Entries 12**

East is to play 3NT. South leads the ♦5, North plays the ♦Q.

Winners: ♠=0 ♥=3 ♦=1 ♣=1 Total = 5

You must take the ♦K right now or you might lose the first 5 tricks.

It's a shame about that solid ♠ suit, but if you try to win even a single ♠ they will grab the ♠A and win enough ♦ tricks to set the contract.

So you are going to have to win a lot of ♣ tricks, and do so without losing the lead. You need dummy entries, and they must be in ♥s.

Win the ♦K. Play the ♥J to dummy's ♥Q. Play the ♣Q and when North follows with a low card let it ride. Still in dummy, play the ♣J, again letting it ride when North plays low. Play one more ♣ to your ♣A, picking up North's ♣K this time.