

**Board 1**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ 7 4  
♥ A K 4  
♦ T 9 8 4  
♣ T 8 4 2

♠ J T 9 6 2

♥ 8 5 3

♦ K J 3

♣ J 6

N  
W E  
S

♠ K 5

♥ Q J 9 7 2

♦ A Q 6

♣ 9 7 3

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

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

3 ♠ by South

**Baker ThirdHand 11**

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥Q, dummy played the ♥6 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Your side needs to take 5 tricks to defeat this contract. Two of them will be ♥s, but it doesn't look like you can win any ♣s or ♠s.

That means you need to win 3 ♦ tricks and the only way that can happen is if you play ♦s from your side.

So win the first ♥K (so partner will know you also have the ♥A), and play the ♦T. Presumably North will play an honor, but East will take the trick and put you back on lead with your ♥A. You play the ♦9 and your side will collect 3 ♦ tricks to go with your 2♥s.

**Board 2**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q 8 6 4

♥ 8

♦ 7 4 2

♣ A J 9

♠ J 3

♥ K Q J 6

♦ A K Q T 5

♣ 6 2

	N	♠ T
W		♥ 7 3 2
	E	♦ 9 8 6 3
S		♣ Q 7 5 4 3

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

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

4 ♥ by North

through South's ♣ K at trick 3.

**Baker ThirdHand 12**

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠ A, then the ♠ K. Dummy follows suit and it is your play to the second trick.

When you have made your choice

It is obvious that your side can only get 2 ♠ tricks. And assuming that South has the Ace of trumps you will not make a single trick in the red suits. So you need to make 2 ♣ tricks.

If partner has the ♣ A K then he will take them, but if he has the ♣ A J he cannot win 2 ♣ tricks from his side.

To allow for this situation it will be better to play ♣s from your side of the table, and the way to make that happen is for you to ruff partner's ♠ K with an otherwise useless trump. You still get your two ♠ winners (sort of) but now you get to play a ♣

**Board 3**

South Deals

E-W Vul

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

♠ K Q 6

♥ Q T 4

♦ J

♣ A J 9 8 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

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

3 NT by North

Not today. Partner takes the ♣K and returns his ♥2 to your four winners.

**Baker ThirdHand 13**

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥8, dummy played the ♥J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

North played dummy's ♥J to tempt you to cover. Don't fall for it.

Partner's lead of a high spot card shows no honors in the suit. That added to the fact that North bid Notrump after you had mentioned ♥s is pretty good evidence that North holds at least ♥ Q x x.

To maintain communication with partner your best hope is to duck the first ♥, but to signal encouragement with the ♥9.

North wins the first trick easily, but must try to establish ♣s. He will enter dummy with the ♠A, then try to run the ♣Q.

**Board 4**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

♠ Q J 9 3

♥ K Q J 5  
♦ 9 3

♣ Q J T

N  
W E  
S

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

♠ A T 7 5  
♥ A 8 2  
♦ K Q  
♣ K 8 7 4

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

4 ♠ by North

wait. Declarer then runs dummy's ♠Q. Partner wins the ♠K, returns his OTHER ♣ to your ♣A, and NOW you give him the ruff. He takes the ♦A for down 1.

**Baker ThirdHand 14**

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣9, dummy played the ♣T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Partner's ♣9 is likely from a short suit. If it is a singleton, you should take the ♣A immediately and return the suit for a ruff. If it is a doubleton, you should NOT take your ♣A now, but should hope partner can get the lead and play his second ♣ to your Ace so you can give him the ruff.

You can figure out which it is.

If it is a singleton, then South must hold 5 ♣s. But you know South has 4 ♠s, so if he also has 5 ♣s then he only has 4 red cards, and he would not have opened 1NT with either 5-4-2-2 or 5-4-3-1 distribution.

So partner's ♣9 is not a singleton, and you should

wait. Declarer then runs dummy's ♠Q. Partner wins the ♠K, returns his OTHER ♣ to your ♣A, and NOW

you give him the ruff. He takes the ♦A for down 1.

**Board 5**

West Deals

N-S Vul

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

♠ A K 4

♥ A 7 4

♦ A K 7 3

♣ Q 5 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 8 3  
♥ T 2  
♦ Q J 8 6 4 2  
♣ 8 3

♠ 6 5 2  
♥ J 9 8  
♦ 9 5  
♣ K J T 9 7

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

3 NT by South

**Baker ThirdHand 15**

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥T, dummy played the ♥J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Declarer gets two ♥ winners whether you play one of your honors on this trick or not. So why does it matter what you do?

Suppose you cover with your ♥Q. North will win his ♥A, then play ♣s until your ♣A is forced out on the third round. He can then force an entry to dummy in the ♥ suit to reach the two ♣ winners.

Now suppose you duck the ♥J. Again North will push ♣s, and again you hold up until the third round. Ahh, what a difference. Now declarer cannot use the ♥s to enter dummy and he will never get to enjoy those two ♣ winners.