

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ T 3

♥ K Q 8 5

♦ 9 7 5 4

♣ Q 8 4

♠ A Q J 2

♥ J T 3

♦ A K T

♣ J T 3



♠ 7 5

♥ 9 7 4 2

♦ 8 6 2

♣ 7 6 5 2

♠ K 9 8 6 4

♥ A 6

♦ Q J 3

♣ A K 9

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

6 ♠ by North

has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to East's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

Baker Signals 19

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. The 2♥ bid was a transfer. The 5NT bid meant to choose either 6♠ or 6NT. North liked the suit. Partner led the ♠ 5, won by North's ♠ Q. North pulls one more trump with his ♠ A, then wins three high ♦ s. Next comes dummy's ♥ A on which he plays the ♥ 3 and East plays the ♥ 9. Then he leads dummy's ♥ 6 which you win with the ♥ Q. On this trick North drops the ♥ J and East the ♥ 2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe North is now out of ♥ s then you should not play your ♥ K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe North when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥ s. In this case an even number must be 4 which means that North has one more ♥ . So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then

Board 2South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 6 4
 ♥ A J 8
 ♦ A Q J 6
 ♣ 8 7 5 4

♠ 9 8 7 5 2

♥ T 5

♦ 9 7 4 3

♣ Q 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 3

♥ K Q 7 6 4 3

♦ K T

♣ J 9

♠ A Q T
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ A K T 6 3

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

4♥ by East

Baker Signals 20

You are South. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣A, North played the ♣2 and East the ♣9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought North's ♣2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣Q and ♣J. If North started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣J. If North started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣Q, then leads a ♠ back to your ♠ A Q.