

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q T 8 5 2
♥ 6
♦ Q 9 7
♣ K Q 5 2

♠ 7 6

♥ K J 7 2

♦ A K 6 4

♣ T 8 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9 4 3
♥ 8 5
♦ T 8 5 3 2
♣ 7 6

♠ A J
♥ A Q T 9 4 3
♦ J
♣ A J 9 4

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

6♥ by South

to go ahead and play ♣s now, finessing into West and HOPING he has no more ♦s!

But if it had turned out that West DID have another ♦, and led it, all would not be lost. You would ruff in your hand, play a trump to dummy, then take a second ♣ finesse. If it turned out the ♣K and ♣Q were in different hands you would make the slam.

Baker Eliminations 21

After hearing a limit raise, South's leap to 6♥ is, well, bold let's say. South plays 6♥. West leads the ♠5, East plays the ♠K.

Win the ♠A, play the ♦J to dummy's ♦K and discard the ♠J on dummy's ♦A.

You are in dummy, so ruff the ♠7 with a high trump. Next play the ♥9 to dummy's ♥J. Both defenders follow, whew!

Back in dummy, ruff a ♦ with the ♥Q, then lead the ♥T to dummy's ♥K, pulling the last trump as you enter dummy.

It would be great if you could ruff dummy's last ♦, then get back to dummy with a trump so you could lead a ♣ from dummy and finesse. But check your trumps. If you do that you will have no more trumps in your hand and West won't be endplayed because you have no ruff-sluff. The only thing you can do is

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J T 8 6 5 3

♥ T 5

♦ J T 8

♣ 3

♠ A 7 2

♥ K Q J

♦ 7 5 2

♣ K J 6 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ -

♥ 8 7 4 3 2

♦ 9 6 4 3

♣ T 9 8 7

♠ Q 9 4

♥ A 9 6

♦ A K Q

♣ A Q 5 4

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

6NT by North

♥.

West has been thrown in and he has nothing left but the ♠ K J. Whichever one he plays you will take the last two tricks.

In fact, it just kept you from making a losing play, (leading toward the ♠ Q), and allowed you to find the end-play to make the slam.

Baker Eliminations 22

Some bidding, huh? Well, what would you have bid in the North seat? South plays 6NT. West leads the ♦ J.

That means you will have to make two ♠ tricks. And since the odds are 5000 to 1 that West has the ♠ K, leading toward your ♠ Q is NOT your play.

Win the ♦ and play 4 rounds of ♣ s. West follows to the first, then discards 3 ♠ s.

Next play 3 ♥ winners. West follows twice, then discards a ♠.

Now play your 2 ♦ winners. East and West both follow.

Keeping your fingers crossed that West must win the next trick you play the ♠ 9. West puts on the ♠ T, you play low in dummy, and East (thankfully) discards a

♥.

Board 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 6
♥ 9 4 3
♦ J T 9 6
♣ Q T 8 3 2

♠ 7 3 2

♥ Q J 8 6

♦ A 5 4 3

♣ A 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q J T 9 4
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 8
♣ J 6 5

♠ K 8 5
♥ A K T 5
♦ K 7 2
♣ K 7 4

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

4♥ by North

suit again.

Play dummy's ♠ 7. East will win, but he has nothing left but ♠ s. When he plays another ♠ you discard your ♦ loser and ruff in dummy.

However, the key is that you could tell they were eliminated from the East hand, and East was going to be the throw-in target because of his long ♠ s.

In many hands an opponent who opens with a preemptive bid gives you the information you need to plan and execute the throw-in.

Baker Eliminations 23

South is to play 4♥. West leads the ♠ 6, taken by East with the ♠ A. East returns the ♠ Q, you play the ♠ K and West ruffs. West next leads the ♦ J.

After that unfortunate start you seem to be in a bit of trouble. Two tricks are already in the defender's pockets and you still have a ♠ loser and a ♦ loser. So you win with your ♦ K and play two rounds of trumps.

The good news is that West started with three trumps, and since he already used one it only takes two pulls to pick up the remaining trumps.

Eliminate ♣ s by playing ♣ A, ♣ K, and ruffing a ♣. Both defenders follow to all three ♣ s.

So far East has followed suit to every trick, meaning he has not discarded a single ♠. Since you know he started with 6 ♠ s, his final 5 cards consist of 4 ♠ s and one other. You play to the ♦ A and East follows

Board 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7
♥ K 9 7 3
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ K T 5 2

♠ A J 9 6 5 3

♥ 5 2

♦ A 2

♣ 8 7 6

N
W E
S

♠ 8 4

♥ J T 8

♦ J T 8 5 4

♣ A 9 3

♠ K Q T 2

♥ A Q 6 4

♦ Q 7

♣ Q J 4

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

4♠ by North

Baker Eliminations 24

North first transfers you to ♠s, then closes the auction with 4♠.

South is to play 4♠. West leads the ♣2. East takes the ♣A and returns the ♣9 to West's ♣K. West plays another ♣ to your ♣Q.

With two tricks lost already you have a sure ♦ loser (unless the defenders goof) and a ♥ loser that might be taken care of if East holds the ♥K. But what if West holds the ♥K? Maybe an elimination play.

First pull trumps - they split 2-1.

Next eliminate ♦s by playing ♦A then another ♦. This does the elimination and throw-in at the same time.

If the defender who won the ♦K plays a ♦ or a ♣ you will ruff in your hand and discard dummy's ♥ loser. So that defender is going to have to lead a ♥.

If it is West who won the ♦K you are home free. His ♥ play will give you two ♥ tricks.

If it is East who won the ♦K you still have a chance. He will lead a ♥ and you will finesse the ♥Q.

In other words, played this way you make the contract whenever West holds the ♦K OR East holds the ♥K.

But if the ♦K is with East and the ♥K with West it wouldn't.

Of course it is POSSIBLE that if you played a low ♦ from dummy some Easts would duck and let you win a trick with your ♦Q.

This trickery would fail if West held the ♦K, or if East held it and went up right away.