

Deal 1
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 3
♥ 5
♦ J T 9 3 2
♣ A 9 6 4 2

12
5 8
15

♠ A 8
♥ K Q 9 7 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ Q J 3

N
W E
S

♠ 9 4 2
♥ T 4
♦ K Q 6 5
♣ K T 8 7

♠ K Q J T 7 5
♥ A J 8 6 3
♦ A
♣ 5

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

6♥ by South

Baker Roman 1
Since there has not been a clear agreement on the trump suit you can assume it is ♥s, the last bid suit.

So you have two Key-Cards (♠A and ♥K, along with the ♥Q). You therefore bid 5♠ and partner bids 6♥.

Deal 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ T 4 2
♦ K T 7 4 3
♣ T 5 4

21
3 5
11

♠ K Q J 5

♥ A Q J 3

♦ Q 6

♣ K Q J

	N		♠ 6
W		♥ 8 7 6	
	E		♦ A J 9 2
	S		♣ 9 8 6 3 2

♠ A T 9 7 3 2
♥ K 9 5
♦ 8 5
♣ A 7

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

5♠ by South

Baker Roman 2

Partner's jump to 4♠ indicates he is prepared to play at game even if you have as few as 6 points. So he must have 20 points or so. With your 14 that puts you in slam range. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Despite your conviction that this hand is going to slam you should NOT ask for Key-Cards holding a worthless doubleton. Instead, you make a slam try by bidding your cheapest control, 5♣. Partner says 5♥. What is your next bid?

You can only say 5♠. Partner would have control-bid ♦s if he held the Ace since controls are bid up-the-line. His failure to show it means he doesn't have it. Since you might be off the first two ♦ tricks you stop at 5♠.

Yes, partner should probably have opened 2NT. Sometimes partners don't make the bids you think they oughta.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 4
 ♥ Q J T 9 2
 ♦ Q J 9 8 7 4
 ♣ T

♠ K Q 9 6 2

♥ K 8 6 5

♦ 5

♣ K Q 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ A 5 3

♥ 4 3

♦ T 2

♣ J 9 7 6 5 4

13
 6 5
 16

♠ J T 8 7
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ A K 6 3
 ♣ A 8 2

Baker Roman 3

You have 3 Key-Cards so you bid 5♦. Partner bids 6♠.

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

6♠ by North

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 5 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ A T 8 6 2
♣ 9 7 5

14
4 2
20

♠ K Q 8 4

♥ A J 6

♦ J 3

♣ Q J 8 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 6
♥ T 9 8 3
♦ Q 9 7 4
♣ T 4 2

♠ A J 9 7 2
♥ K Q 5
♦ K 5
♣ A K 6

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

6 ♠ by South

Baker Roman 4

Your partnership plays Jacoby 2NT convention, so partner's 2NT shows a game-forcing raise in ♠s. Your 3NT bid indicates a 5-card suit and "extra values". Partner's 4♥ is a control-bid showing the ♥A. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you need to know now about partner's hand is Key-Cards so you bid 4NT. He answers 5♠. What is your bid?

</table>

Partner's response says 2 Key-Cards and the ♠Q. So you are missing either the trump King or the ♦A. So you shouldn't bid 7, but you will almost surely make 6. You bid 6♠.

Deal 5

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 6 5
♥ A 9 5 3
♦ 9 4
♣ 9 8 4 2

14
4 6
16

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

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♦	Pass	

6♦ by North

Baker Roman 5

Partner's 3♦ bid shows a very good hand with probable slam interest. It is very tempting to say 3NT now but you don't have ♥'s stopped and don't know if partner does. So with good ♦ support you bid 4♦. Partner bids 4NT. What is your response?

You have 2 Key-Cards, the ♠A and ♦K. But you don't have the ♦Q so you answer 5♥. Partner bids 6♦.

Deal 6

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 4 3
♥ T 7
♦ A T 8 5
♣ J T 5 4

11
5 5
19

♠ A 6 5 2
♥ Q J 5 2
♦ K J 3
♣ 8 2

	N		♠ Q J 9
W		3	
	E		♦ Q 9 7 6 4 2
	S		♣ 9 6 3

♠ K T 8
♥ A K 9 8 6 4
♦ -
♣ A K Q 7

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

6♥ by South

the slam is a good idea so you say 6♥.

Baker Roman 6

Your partner's 3♥ is a limit-raise, 11-12 points with ♥ support. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you want to know is whether partner holds the ♠A. If you bid 4NT and he shows two Key-Cards all will be well, you will know they are the two missing Aces. But if he shows just 1 Key-Card you will be in the soup since you can't tell if that Key-Card is the useful ♠A or the practically useless ♦A. So you don't use RKCB, you use control-showing and bid 4♣. Partner says 4♥. What do you bid next?

Partner would have control-bid ♦s if he had the Ace. You may not think that helps but it does since now you can bid RKCB. You bid 4NT and he answers 5♣. What is your next bid?

It was a lot of work but you have figured out that partner holds 11-12 points including one Key-Card which must be the ♠A. It looks like

Deal 7North Deals
None Vul

♠ J T 3	♦ A Q 9 7 4
♥ Q 9 6	♥ 8
♦ K 9 8 7 5	♦ A 6 3 2
♣ 7 6	♣ K Q J
16	♠ -
6 7	♥ A 5 4 3 2
11	♦ Q J T 4
♣ T 5 4 2	
♣ A 9 8 3	♦ -

N	
W	E
S	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

6 ♠ by North

Baker Roman 7

Your 4♦ bid is a Splinter Bid, showing opening hand strength, at least 4 ♠s, and a singleton or void in ♦s. Partner bids 4NT.

You have 2 Key-Cards, the ♠K and the ♣A. So do you bid 5♥?

No. You have two Key-Cards AND a void. So you bid 5NT. Partner bids 6♠.

Deal 8
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 5 2
♥ 2
♦ T 8 6 5 4
♣ A 7 4 2

13
4 3
20

♠ A T 8
♥ K 9 8 4
♦ K 9
♣ K T 6 5

N
W E
S

♠ 9 7 4 3
♥ Q J 5 3
♦ 7 3 2
♣ 8 3

♠ K Q J
♥ A T 7 6
♦ A Q J
♣ Q J 9

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
All Pass			

5♥ by South

Baker Roman 8

Your partner's 2NT opener is 20-21 points and the 3♣ bid is Stayman. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

You know of 33 points and you know of an 8-card ♥ fit. The math tells you that 6♥ should be a good slam but you might as well check Key-Cards, that's why the convention was invented. So you bid 4NT and partner answers 5♥. What do you say?

You say "Darn!" You are missing just one Key-Card, but you are also missing the trump Queen. And with partner holding only a 4-card suit that Queen might well win a trick. Knowing that at best the slam will depend on a trump finesse you pass 5♥.

Deal 9

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 9 5 4 3 2
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 9 8 6 2
 ♣ J 7 2

10
1 **5**
24

♠ 7
 ♥ K Q 9 8 5
 ♦ K Q 7 4
 ♣ 9 8 3

N
 W E
 S

♠ T 8 6
 ♥ 6 4 2
 ♦ J T 3
 ♣ A 6 5 4

♠ A K Q J
 ♥ A J T 7
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ K Q T

Baker Roman 9

With 11 points and a good suit you should make a positive response. So you bid 2♥. Partner then says 4NT. What is your bid?

The 4NT bid agrees ♥s as trump. You have one Key-Card, the ♥K, so you bid 5♣. Partner bids the ♥ slam.

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥

All Pass

6♥ by South

Deal 10

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ 9 2
♥ J 7 3
♦ J T 6 5
♣ A 7 4 3

20
6 3
11

♠ K T
♥ A K 9 8 4
♦ K Q 8
♣ K Q 6

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

♠ A Q J 7 5 3
♥ 6 5
♦ A 4 3
♣ 8 2

Baker Roman 10

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Your partner has shown a minimum opening hand, but with 6 ♠s. You are happy with the 8-card trump fit but need to know about Key-Cards. So you bid 4NT. Partner answers 5♠ and it is your bid again.

Partner has two Aces and the ♠Q. That should be all he needs to make slam so you bid 6♠.

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

6♠ by North

Deal 11

South Deals
None Vul

♠ T 9 5 3
♥ 2
♦ 6 5 2
♣ K Q J 9 3

9
6 4
21

♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ K J 9 8 5
♦ K Q 7 4
♣ -

N
W E
S

♠ 8
♥ 7 6
♦ T 9 3
♣ A T 8 6 5 4 2

♠ A K Q J
♥ A Q T 4 3
♦ A J 8
♣ 7

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

7♥ by South

Baker Roman 11

With 11 points and a good suit you should make a positive response. So you bid 2♥. Partner then says 4NT. What is your bid?

The 4NT bid agrees ♥s as trump. You have one Key-Card, the ♥K, but you also have a void in ♣s. You therefore answer 6♣. Partner goes all the way to 7♥.

Deal 12South Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 4
♥ 8 6 5
♦ A 9 7 4
♣ 9 6 5 4 3

18
4 3
15

♠ K 6 5 2

♥ A Q 7 4

♦ K 8 6

♣ A Q

N	
W	E
S	

♠ Q J 8 3

♥ 9 3 2

♦ 5 2

♣ T 8 7 2

♠ A T 9 7
♥ K J T
♦ Q J T 3
♣ K J

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

5 ♠ by South

Baker Roman 12

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Partner has 15-17 points and 4 ♠s. You have 18 points and 4 ♠s. You plan to bid the slam, but first you check Key-Cards. So you bid 4NT. Partner says 5♣. What do you bid?

You are missing 1 Key-Card. Slam has become less certain. You decide to see if partner has the trump Queen so you bid 5♦. Partner bids 5♠. What do you say next?

Partner denies having the ♠Q. Knowing that the best you could hope for would be a finesse to make the slam you give up your quest and pass.

Deal 13

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ 6 5
♥ 4 3 2
♦ T 8 6 5
♣ 9 8 6 3

17
0 4
19

♠ 9 7
♥ A K 9 6
♦ A Q 9 7 4
♣ A 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 8 4 2
♥ Q J
♦ J 3 2
♣ T 7 4 2

♠ A K Q J 3
♥ T 8 7 5
♦ K
♣ K Q J

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

6♥ by South

Baker Roman 13

Your 2♥ bid is a Reverse, showing 17+ points.

There has been no agreement on trumps, so you assume that South has implicitly agreed to ♥s. So you respond 5♣, showing 4 Key-Cards, three Aces and the ♥K. Partner next bids 5♦. What do you say?

5♦ is the Queen Ask. Partner obviously is thinking about a Grand Slam and wants to know whether you hold the trump Queen (♥Q). Since you do not have the card you return to the agreed trump suit at the lowest level - which is 5♥. Partner now bids 6♥.

Deal 14

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 9 8 5
♥ T 7
♦ 9 4 3 2
♣ 9 7 5

18
1 5
16

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

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

7NT by South

Baker Roman 14

The bidding has been as shown. Yes, you could have jump-shifted on your first bid. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Slam in \heartsuit s is almost certain, but you should check for Key-Cards. You bid 4NT and partner says 5 \clubsuit . What do you bid next?

Partner shows 1 or 4 Key-cards. Since he jumped on the second round you figure it must be 4. So you have all the Key-Cards. Time to find out about the other Kings, so you bid 5NT. Partner replies 6♦. What do you bid?

Partner has 1 King, the only one left, the ♦K.
You can count about 17 high-card tricks
available so you bid 7NT.

Deal 15

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 7

♥ 5 4

♦ A 8 5 3

♣ 9 7 5 4

7 15
11

♠ T 8 6
♥ K Q J 8 3
♦ T
♣ A K Q 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ -
♥ A T 9 6
♦ K Q J 7 4
♣ J T 8 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass	4NT	Pass	6♥

6♥ by South

Baker Roman 15

Your 3♠ bid is a Splinter, agreeing ♥s as trump, and showing opening hand strength with a singleton or void in ♠s. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

</table>

You have one Key-Card, the ♥A. You also have a ♠ void, but since bidding 6♠ would take you above the 6♥ level you just respond 6♥. Partner will deduce that your void is in ♠s, particularly because you Splintered in that suit. Partner passes your 6♥ bid.

Deal 16East Deals
None Vul

♠ 7

♥ 6 5 3

♦ A Q T 9 6 2

♣ Q 8 3

10

8 5

17

♠ A T 8 4 3

♥ Q T 8 4

♦ -

♣ K J T 2

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ 2

♥ J 9 7 2

♦ K J 4 3

♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ K Q J 9 6 5

♥ A K

♦ 8 7 5

♣ A 5

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♠

All Pass

7♠ by South

Baker Roman 16

Partner's 4♦ bid is a Splinter Bid. It shows opening hand strength, at least 4-card ♠ support, and a singleton or void in ♦s. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Normally you would not ask for Key-Cards with this ♦ holding. But since you know partner has at most a singleton, and that it is not the singleton ♦A, you are safe to do so. You say 4NT, partner replies 6♦. What next?

WOW! Partner has one Key-Card and a ♦ void. So the Key-Card is the ♠A. You don't know what the rest of partner's hand is, but he can surely take care of that small ♣. You bid 7♠.

Deal 17

South Deals
None Vul

♠ T 4 2

♥ K Q J 9 5 3

♦ 5

♣ 9 6 2

10
6 2
22

♠ K 8 7
♥ A T 6
♦ Q 9 7 4
♣ J T 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9 6 3
♥ 8 7 2
♦ J 2
♣ 7 5 4 3

♠ A Q 5
♥ 4
♦ A K T 8 6 3
♣ A K Q

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	7NT
Pass			

7NT by South

Baker Roman 17

Your 2NT response shows 8+ points, with no 5-card biddable suit. Decide what you would say next, then bid above.

You support the ♦s and partner bids 4NT. What is your next bid?

With ♦s as trump you have 1 Key-Card, the ♥A. You answer 5♣ and partner bids 5♥. What is your bid?

This is the Queen Ask, wanting to know if you hold the ♦Q. Since you do have it you should bid a suit in which you hold a King. So you bid 5♠. That spurred partner on - he was fishing for 7♦ but when you told him you had the ♦Q, ♥A and ♠K he was able to bid 7NT.

Deal 18

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K J T 9 7 4 3

♥ -

♦ T 8 4 2

♣ 7 5

♠ Q 8

♥ A J 9 7

♦ K Q J

♣ A K Q 6

N	
W	E
S	

♠ A 6 5 2

♥ 5 4

♦ A 9 7 6

♣ 9 4 3

22
4 8
6

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♥
Pass			

6♥ by South

Baker Roman 18

Partner's 2♥ is a positive response, 8+ points with a 5+ card suit. Decide what you would say next, then bid above.

Even though it is tempting, bidding RKCB now would be a mistake because of your doubleton ♠ loser. Instead just support the ♥s. Partner cannot pass, you both know you are forced to game. In fact, partner bids 3♠. What do you bid next?

Partner promises first round ♠ control so NOW you can bid RCKB. When you bid 4NT partner answers 6♥. This shows 1 Key-Card and a void in a suit higher than ♥s. Knowing you are missing either the ♦A or ♥K you pass.

Deal 19

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 6
♥ Q T 9 4
♦ T 9 6
♣ Q J 9 3

21
5 **4**
10

♠ A Q J 8 5 4 3

♥ 7
♦ A K 4
♣ A K

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ -
♥ J 3 2
♦ Q J 7 5 2
♣ T 8 7 5 2

♠ K T 7 2
♥ A K 8 6 5
♦ 8 3
♣ 6 4

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	7NT	Pass	

7NT by North

Baker Roman 19

Your 2♥ response shows 8+ points, with at least 5 ♥s. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

Your hand is looking better and better. You already gave a positive response so you know you are forced to game. It is better to keep the bidding low to allow more investigating room so you bid 3♠. Partner bids 4NT. What is your response?

With ♠s agreed as trumps you have two Key-Cards, the ♠K and the ♥A. With no trump Queen you respond 5♥. Partner now says 5NT. What do you reply?

Partner is asking for Kings and you have just 1, the ♥K. Remember, the ♠K is not a King, it is a Key-Card which you have already counted. So you bid 6♦. Partner counts 13 tricks and bids 7NT.

Deal 20

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 8
 ♥ T 9 7 4 2
 ♦ A 9 5
 ♣ 9 8 7 6

11
 4 7
 18

♠ Q J 7 3
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ T 8 6 4
 ♣ K J 5

	N		♠ T 2
W		♥ J 5 3	
	E		♦ 7 3
	S		♣ A Q T 4 3 2

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

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♠

All Pass

6♠ by South

Baker Roman²⁰

Partner's 3♠ is a limit raise, 11-12 points and good ♠ support. Decide what you would say next, then on BID above.

What you DO NOT say next is 4NT. If partner answered 1 Key-Card you would not know what to do. If he has a red Ace you can make slam, but if his one Key-Card were the ♣A you couldn't. Instead you make a control-showing bid of 4♣, promising first round control. Partner obliges you by bidding 4♥. What is your next bid?

</table>

Partner's bidding is like the Sherlock Holmes tale <u>Silver Blaze</u>, about the dog that didn't bark. Partner's ♥ bid shows that he DOES have the ♥A, but equally important it shows that he DOES NOT have the ♦A. So you know you don't have a ♥ loser but do have a ♦ loser. You bid 6♠.