

Board 1

South Deals
None 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 ♦
1 ♥	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

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 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ Q J 9 3
 ♥ K Q J 5
 ♦ 9 3
 ♣ Q J T

♠ 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

♠ K 6 2
 ♥ T 6 4
 ♦ A J 6 5 4
 ♣ 9 2

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

4 ♠ by West

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.

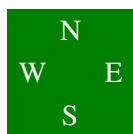
If it is a singleton, then East must hold 5 ♣s. But you know East has 4 ♠s, so if he also has 5 ♣s then he only has 4 red cards, and he would not have opened 1NT with either 5-4-2-2 or 5-4-3-1 distribution.

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 3
 East Deals
 None Vul

♠ 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



♠ 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

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

3 NT by North

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. South 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 South 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.

Board 4

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ A J 3
 ♥ A J 3
 ♦ K T 9 2
 ♣ 9 7 3

♠ Q
 ♥ T 9 6 5 2
 ♦ J 8 6 3
 ♣ 6 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 5 4 2
 ♥ K Q
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ K J T 8 5

♠ K T 9 8 6
 ♥ 8 7 4
 ♦ Q 7 4
 ♣ A Q

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

3 NT by East

♠Q. Assume West takes the trick, although it doesn't matter whether he wins the first one or holds up. When you win your first ♣ drive out West's ♠J. When you win your second ♣ trick your ♠s will be good. If you overtake the first trick the contract can no longer be made.

Notice that West will always make two ♠ tricks, so your overtake costs nothing.

Baker ThirdHand 16

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠Q, a low card was played from dummy, and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

It seems that perhaps you should play low and let partner's ♠Q force out West's ♠A. Then, when you get the lead with a high ♣ you can force out West's ♠J. Get the lead with your other high ♣ and set the contract with ♠s.

Suppose you try that. Play low on the first ♠. West will also play low and North will be left holding the trick, and also holding the bag! With no more ♠s North will have to play one of the other three suits, and that is just what West wants to have happen. The contract could no longer be beaten.

Now do it the right way. Play your ♠K on partner's ♠Q. Assume West takes the trick, although it doesn't matter whether he wins the first one or holds up. When you win your first ♣ drive out West's ♠J. When you win your second ♣ trick your ♠s will be good. If you overtake the first trick the contract can no longer be made.