

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		♠ 9 7 5 2
W		E	♥ 8 2
	S		♦ 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 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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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	

♠ K T 9 8 6
♥ 8 7 4
♦ Q 7 4
♣ A Q

♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ K Q
♦ A 5
♣ K J T 8 5

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

3NT by East

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.

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.

Board 5

South Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K 8 7 5 4 2

♥ Q T 4

♦ 8 3

♣ A 6

♠ Q J T

♥ A 7

♦ A K 7 5

♣ T 7 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 3	
♥ J 8 6 5 2	
♦ J T 9 4	
♣ K 4	

♠ A 6	
♥ K 9 3	
♦ Q 6 2	
♣ Q J 9 8 2	

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

3 NT by South

♦ Q, and your other three good ♠s.

Just like the previous deal, North gets two ♠ tricks either way, but one way he makes an overtrick, the other way he goes down 2.

Baker ThirdHand 17

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠9, dummy played the ♠6 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You could easily win the ♠K, then play a small ♠ to drive out dummy's ♠A. But North bid Notrump over your 2♠ overcall, so he surely holds ♠ Q J T. So when you get the lead with your one ♣A entry you can establish your ♠s, but you won't get into the lead to cash them.

Look what happens when you duck the first trick. North will win the trick with his ♠T, and start on dummy's ♣ suit.

East (your wonderful partner) will win the first ♣ and return his final ♠ to dummy's ♠A.

North will have to keep working on ♣s, but now you can win the ♣A and play your ♠K, dropping North's

Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ J T 6 4

♥ Q J T

♦ A K 6

♣ 9 4 2

♠ 7 2
♥ 8 4 3
♦ 9 5 4
♣ A 8 7 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 9 5
♥ A K 9 7 5 2
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 6

♠ A Q 8 3
♥ 6
♦ J T 7 2
♣ K Q J T

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

4♥ by West

Baker ThirdHand 18

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

When you have made your choice

You are pretty sure partner would not have supported your ♣s unless he had 4 of them, which means it is very likely that East has a singleton. (he might even be void)

So if you are to set this contract partner is going to have to have some ♠ winners. It might not matter, but it also might be vital that the first ♠ lead comes from your side of the table so after you overtake with the ♣A you switch to the ♠7.

Partner loves it - whatever East does South takes the next two ♠s, then leads a third ♠ for you to ruff. Down 1.