

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 9 7 4 3

♥ 5 2

♦ A 8 5

♣ 9 7 4

♠ Q T 6

♥ K J 8

♦ K Q J 3

♣ A J 2



♠ 8 5 2

♥ A Q 6 4 3

♦ 7 4

♣ T 6 3

♠ A K
 ♥ T 9 7
 ♦ T 9 6 2
 ♣ K Q 8 5

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

already won.

Baker SecondHand 9

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥4, won by North's ♥8.

North enters dummy with the ♠K and leads the ♦T. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

You don't have much in your hand, but you do have the ♦A, and you also have the responsibility to help East set up his suit.

So even though you don't know for sure how good that suit is, your plan of action should be to take the ♦A and return a ♥.

As you see, this will defeat the contract. Had you played a low ♦ North would have pocketed that trick and added 4 ♣s and 3 ♠s to go with the ♥ he had

Board 2

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K T 8 7 4
 ♥ J 8 7 2
 ♦ T 2
 ♣ K J

♠ 9 5 3
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ Q T 9 8 5 2

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

♠ A Q J
 ♥ K 6 5 3
 ♦ K 9 5 3
 ♣ 6 3

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

3 NT by South

East will win the ♣A and return his ♠ through South's ♠ A Q. This allows you to set up your ♠ suit while you still have the ♣K for an entry.

Baker SecondHand 10

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠ 7; ♠ 3, ♠ 2 and won by South with ♠ Q.

South then plays the ♣ 6 from his hand. Which ♣ should you play?

When you have made your choice

You should not allow yourself to be misled by South winning the first trick with the ♠ Q. East does not hold either the ♠ A or the ♠ J or he would have played it. South is just trying to be deceptive.

That means you need the next ♠ play to come from East, so you play your ♣ J and let East win his ♣ A. You can be sure East has the ♣ A because South would have played the suit differently if he held the Ace.

Board 3

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 7
♥ 9 6 4
♦ K 8 6 3
♣ J T 8 6 2

♠ A J 9 4
♥ A K Q J T
♦ A
♣ A K 5

N
W E
S

♠ Q T 8 5 3 2
♥ 7 3
♦ Q J T
♣ 9 4

♠ K 6
♥ 8 5 2
♦ 9 7 5 4 2
♣ Q 7 3

West	North	East	South
	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

6♥ by North

would then get the lead and pull your two remaining trumps. That would leave one trump in dummy to ruff his ♠J, his only remaining loser.

Baker SecondHand 11

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♦Q, you signaled with the ♦8 and North won the ♦A.

North then played low to dummy's ♠K, and led dummy's ♠6. Your decision is not whether to play high or low, but whether to ruff or not, which amounts to the same thing.

When you have made your choice

Even though North holds the ♠A, if you ruff now he will just put on a small ♠ and you will be ruffing a loser. Instead discard a ♦.

North will win the ♠A, but will not be able to ruff any ♠ losers in dummy because your trumps can overruff any of South's trumps.

Suppose you had ruffed the ♠. North would have played his ♠9, leaving himself with ♠ A J. He

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 9 2
♥ Q 3
♦ Q J T 6
♣ K Q J 8

♠ J 6 3
♥ A K T 9 8
♦ 8 2
♣ T 9 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A T 7 4
♥ J 6 5 2
♦ 9 5 4
♣ 5 3

♠ K 8 5
♥ 7 4
♦ A K 7 3
♣ A 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
All Pass			1NT

1 NT by South

Baker SecondHand 12

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♣K and continue with the ♣J then ♣Q, taken by South's ♣A. To trick 4 South plays the ♥4. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

To see why you should play the ♥Q, just visualize the result if you play low. South will finesse with dummy's ♥8. If East wins his ♥J on this trick there will be 4 good ♥ tricks in dummy. If East withholds his ♥J then Declarer will have 3 ♥ winners.

Now visualize the result of playing the ♥Q. Whether South takes this trick or not he cannot win more than 2 ♥s.