

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 3

♥ J T 6 2

♦ K J 9 5 4 2

♣ 3

♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2

♥ 8 5

♦ 6

♣ T 7 5

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ 5

♥ 9 7 3

♦ A 8 7

♣ A K 9 8 6 4

♠ A T 6

♥ A K Q 4

♦ Q T 3

♣ Q J 2

West

North

East

South

3 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

All Pass

4 ♠ by South

Baker Signals 17

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♣A. Seeing your ♣3 he next played the ♦A. What will you play on this trick?

When you have made your choice

Normally with this holding you would play the ♦9 to encourage East to play a second ♦ through dummy's ♦Q T.

But this time you really want him to take his ♣K. So play the discouraging ♦2 and hope he gets the message to go back to ♣s. If he does play the ♣K next it will win and he can then give you a ♣ ruff.

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 8 5
 ♥ K Q 8 5 3
 ♦ 9 6 2
 ♣ J 4

♠ 6 4 2

♥ 9 6 4

♦ K Q 8 3

♣ K 7 3



♠ J T 7 3

♥ J 7 2

♦ T 7 5

♣ A 9 5

♠ A K Q

♥ A T

♦ A J 4

♣ Q T 8 6 2

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | 2NT |

3 NT by North

Baker Signals 18

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥5, you put on the ♥J, South won with the ♥A. The second trick was ♦A, ♦2, ♦3, ♦5. The third trick was ♦J, ♦6, ♦8, ♦7. South then put the ♣Q on the table.

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like South is trying to create an entry to dummy so he can cash the 2 ♦ winners? That's what he wants it to look like, hoping someone holds up their ♣A.

But don't believe Declarer, believe your partner. On the first ♦ West played the ♦2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And South must also have a third one, so he is up to some trickery with that ♣Q.

So grab your ♣A and return partner's ♥ suit.

Board 3

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ T 3
 ♥ K Q 8 5
 ♦ 9 7 5 4
 ♣ Q 8 4

♠ A Q J 2

♥ J T 3

♦ A K T

♣ J T 3



♠ 7 5

♥ 9 7 4 2

♦ 8 6 2

♣ 7 6 5 2

♠ K 9 8 6 4

♥ A 6

♦ Q J 3

♣ A K 9

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

6 ♠ by North

has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to East's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

Baker Signals 19

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. The 2♥ bid was a transfer. The 5NT bid meant to choose either 6♠ or 6NT. North liked the suit. Partner led the ♠5, won by North's ♠Q. North pulls one more trump with his ♠A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥A on which he plays the ♥3 and East plays the ♥9. Then he leads dummy's ♥6 which you win with the ♥Q. On this trick North drops the ♥J and East the ♥2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe North is now out of ♥s then you should not play your ♥K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe North when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In this case an even number must be 4 which means that North has one more ♥. So you play your ♥K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then

Board 4

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q T
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ A K T 6 3

♠ 6 4

♥ A J 8

♦ A Q J 6

♣ 8 7 5 4



♠ 9 8 7 5 2

♥ T 5

♦ 9 7 4 3

♣ Q 2

♠ K J 3

♥ K Q 7 6 4 3

♦ K T

♣ J 9

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 ♣ | Pass | Pass | 1 ♥ |
| Pass | 2 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

4 ♥ by South

Baker Signals 20

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣ A, East played the ♣ 2 and South the ♣ 9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣ 2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣ Q and ♣ J. If East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If East started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣ Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣ Q, then leads a ♠ back to your ♠ A Q.