

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q T 4
♥ K T 5 2
♦ A J 7 3
♣ J 5

♠ A 8 7 6 3 2

♥ 8

♦ K T 5

♣ 9 8 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 9
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ T 7 4

♠ K 5
♥ A 6 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 6 3

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

4 ♠ by North

both defenders following to both leads but the ♠ Q is still out there.

Do you play ♠ s again or not?

Usually it is a good idea to leave a master trump un-pulled and go about your business winning tricks in other suits. The idea is to force them to ruff without using any more of your trumps. But that is only "usually". Here your big source of winners is going to be the ♣ suit - and there are zero outside entries to it. Suppose you do not force out the ♠ Q, but start playing ♣ winners. A defender might ruff the third ♣ and you would be doomed.

So play one more ♠ and they are doomed.

Almost always the answer is "not to pull".

The big exception is when you have a running suit in one hand but with no outside entries to it. A hand exactly like this one.

Baker 100NT 96

You have an invitational strength hand with a 6-card Major suit. It's a no-brainer; you transfer with a 2♥ bid. Partner says 2♠; what do you bid next?

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Repeat: You have an invitational strength hand with a 6-card Major suit. So you invite with 3♠ s. Partner accepts with 4♠.

The contract would be 4♠ played by North.

To make South the declarer ROTATE.

South plays 4♠. West leads the ♥ Q. Of course you take the ♥ A.

Missing 5 ♠ s, the most likely split is 3-2, (68% of the time). You win the ♥ A then play ♠ K and ♠ A,

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K Q
♥ A J T
♦ A K 5 3
♣ A 8 7 3

♠ T 7 5

♥ 6 3

♦ Q J T 9

♣ J 5 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 8 6 4 2
♥ 8 5 2
♦ 8
♣ K Q 9 6

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

Partner shows three Aces. You can't consider a Grand Slam, so bid 6♥.

The contract would be 6♥ played by East.

To make West the declarer ROTATE.

West plays 6♥. North leads the ♦ 8, on which South plays the ♦ 9. You win the ♦ K.

If you look just at the East and West hands you would think this was a pretty easy slam to make. Pull trumps and play three rounds of ♦s, and as long as the ♦s split 3-2 you make twelve tricks. But when you consider the ♦ 8 opening lead you realize that it won't happen. The missing ♦s are Q J T 9 and 8. The ONLY combination from which North would lead the ♦ 8 is when he has a singleton. So the ♦s won't be splitting and you need a different plan.

You need to get a ♦ discard somewhere, and dummy's third ♠ will take care of one of YOUR ♦ losers. But then to establish YOUR hand you are going to have to ruff all 3 ♣ losers.

Play the ♣ A and ruff a ♣. Enter your hand with the ♥ T and ruff another ♣ high. Back to your hand with the ♥ J and ruff another ♣ high. Dummy is out of trumps but there is still one more in a defender's hand. So come to your hand with the ♠ Q and pull the last trump, discarding a ♦ from dummy.

With all the trumps pulled cash dummy's 2 ♠s and your ♦ A, then give up a ♦ at the last trick.

However it's a "role reversal", you pulled trumps with the short-trump hand and took three ruffs in the long-trump hand.

But call it whatever you like, that's the way to make this Deal.

Baker 100NT 97

You know you may be in slam territory, but first you need to establish trumps. So you bid 3♦ as a transfer and almost faint when partner jumps to 4♥, showing a super-accept. Now what do you bid?

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Check for Aces with Blackwood, partner replies 5♠. What next?

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Check for Aces with Blackwood, partner replies 5♠. What next?

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ T 9 8 5 2

♥ 9 7 2

♦ 8 3

♣ 8 6 5

♠ Q J 7

♥ K Q J T

♦ A Q 5

♣ A J 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 4 3

♥ 8 4 3

♦ J T 9 4

♣ 9 7 2

♠ A 6
♥ A 6 5
♦ K 7 6 2
♣ K Q T 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	7NT	All Pass	4♠

7 NT by North

Baker 100NT 98

You have 16 points and partner has 20-21. If you bid 7NT right now just because it is something you always wanted to do, then I don't blame you. But if you're cautious you'll use Gerber 4♣. Partner bids 4♠; what do you bid next?

You have 16 points and partner has 20-21. If you bid 7NT right now just because it is something you always wanted to do, then I don't blame you. But if you're cautious you'll use Gerber 4♣. Partner bids 4♠; what do you bid next?

OK, you have all the Aces. You are missing 4 points at most, possibly a King and a Jack, or two Queens. You could continue with Gerber and find out about the Kings, or you could pick between 6NT and 7NT right now. You go for the gusto with 7NT!

The contract would be 7NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 7NT. East leads the ♠T. Do you play the ♠A or a low card?.

If East has led from ♠ K T 9 x, then all you have to do to make this contract is play a low card from dummy. But a decent defender would not make such a risky lead against a 7NT contract, so it is probable that West has the ♠K. You rise with the ♠A.

You hope the ♦s will split 3-3, but if they don't you still have the possibility of squeezing West if he holds 4 ♦s along with the ♠K you have assigned to him.

If it comes to a squeeze it is important to take your tricks in the correct order. First take 4 ♣ tricks, discarding the ♠J from your hand. You note that West discards a small ♠ on the fourth ♣.

Next take 4 ♥ winners, discarding dummy's useless ♠6 and keeping all 4 ♦s. On the fourth ♥ West must come down to a 4-card holding; he must either throw his ♠K, (you are happy) or he can throw one of his ♦s, (you are happy).

to see what a great squeezer you are.

That means you didn't have to do anything special, just play your winners in the right order and keep your eyes open to see if the ♠K gets discarded.

Of course if the ♦s were breaking 3-3 all the time you haven't lost anything by playing for the squeeze.

Board 4

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ K 5
♥ Q 8 6
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ K Q 8 6

♠ Q 7

♥ 9 5 4

♦ T 9 5 2

♣ J T 9 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J T 4 3
♥ A 3
♦ K J 8 4
♣ A 5 3

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

4♥ by East

plan will be to establish the ♠ suit.

So you next play ♠K, ♠A, then ruff a ♠ with dummy's ♥Q. South does not follow to the third ♠.

Next play ♦A and get to your hand by ruffing a ♦. Pull the last trump, then give up a ♠ to North. Win his return, (by ruffing if necessary) and take your established ♠ winner and dummy's ♣K.

It would have done you no good at all.

If it worked, all you could do would be to discard your fifth ♠; but that was the ♠ that turned out to be a winner!

It was the fourth ♠ that was a loser, and you couldn't get rid of that one.

With 10 points and two 4-card Majors you bid 2♣ Stayman. Partner says 2♥; what do you bid next?

With 10 points and two 4-card Majors you bid 2♣ Stayman. Partner says 2♥; what do you bid next?

Now you add a point for your doubleton, get to 11 points, and bid 4♥.

The contract would be 4♥ played by West.

To make East the declarer ROTATE.

East plays 4♥. South leads the ♦Q. Win the ♦Q in either hand. Lets say you win with your ♦A.

*Don't get overconfident with this loser list. It assumes that trumps break 3-2, (if they don't you cannot make it), and also assumes you will be able to cross-ruff 4 small black cards.

Cross-ruffing those 4 losers could be a problem. You can't afford to get over-ruffed so it would be nice if you could pull some trumps before you start the cross-ruff. But you must make sure that only two rounds of trumps get pulled, otherwise you won't have the trumps for the cross-ruff.

It is actually simple to make sure exactly two rounds of trumps are drawn. At trick 2 just duck a ♥ in each

Baker 100NT 99

Partner's bid is a transfer asking you to bid 2♠, so you do. Partner now bids 3♥; what do you bid next?

Partner's bid is a transfer asking you to bid 2♠, so you do. Partner now bids 3♥; what do you bid next?

Partner is showing 5-5 in the Majors, with at least invitational strength. It's a close thing, but you decide to accept the invitation and bid 4♥.

The contract would be 4♥ played by West.

To make East the declarer ROTATE.

East plays 4♥. South leads the ♣J. You play the ♣Q. North wins with the ♣A and plays the ♥A then the ♥3.

North trump play was good defense; it has prevented you from ruffing 2 ♠s in dummy. Even so your best