

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 2
♥ J T 9
♦ A J 7 2
♣ Q T 9 8

♠ K 6 5 3

♥ A 7 4

♦ Q 8 3

♣ A K 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ K 9 5
♣ J 6 3 2

♠ J T 9 7
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ T 6 4
♣ 7 5

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

Baker SecondHand 1

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♠J, won by dummy's ♠Q. The ♦5 is now played from dummy. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

Considering that North opened 1NT, he must have the ♦Q for this play to make sense.

So if you put on your ♦A, North will have TWO ♦ winners established. If instead you play low, then North cannot get a second ♦ trick and will have to look elsewhere for his ninth trick. As you can see, he is not going to be able to find it.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ A Q J 7 4
♣ K Q 7

♠ 9 7 5 3

♥ Q

♦ K T 5 2

♣ 8 6 5 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 4
♥ J T 5 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J T 9 3

Baker SecondHand 2

You are South. The bidding has been as shown.

Your lead of the ♣J was won by East with the ♣A. East then played the ♥2 and you must decide whether to split your honors.

When you have made your choice

East's bidding showed at least 5 ♥s, so assuming he holds both the ♥A Q, it would be silly for him to finesse the ♥9 on the first trump play.

As it turns out, when you play low East calls for dummy's ♥K, North's ♥Q falls and you now have 2 trump tricks. If you had played the ♥T you would have tossed away the setting trick.

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

6♥ by West

Board 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J T 6 4

♥ K

♦ 7 6 4 2

♣ K Q 7 5

♠ K 7

♥ J 8 6 3 2

♦ K 5 3

♣ T 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 8 3 2

♥ Q 4

♦ T 9 8

♣ A 9 3

♠ A 5

♥ A T 9 7 5

♦ A Q J

♣ J 8 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	All Pass	1♥

4♥ by North

Baker SecondHand 3

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♣K, and you played the ♣9 to encourage him. He continued with the ♣Q, then a small card to your ♣A. You then exit with the ♦T, taken by dummy's ♦K.

Declarer then calls for the ♥J. Do you cover with your ♥Q or not?

When you have made your choice

North has 5 ♥s and South must have at least 5. The reason you cover an Honor is that you hope to establish a lower card in either your hand or partner's hand. But your partner has one ♥ at the most so there is no hope of establishment.

Now that you have looked at the hands aren't you glad you didn't cover?

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ Q 9 7 4 2

♥ 9 4

♦ A K Q J

♣ A K

♠ K J 3

♥ J T 8 5

♦ T 6

♣ 9 7 6 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A T 5

♥ Q 6 3

♦ 8 7 4 2

♣ J 8 5

♠ 8 6

♥ A K 7 2

♦ 9 5 3

♣ Q T 3 2

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

4 ♠ by West

Baker SecondHand 4

You are North. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♥J, covered by dummy's ♥Q and won by South's ♥K. South wins the ♥A at the second trick and continues with a small ♥ ruffed by West.

West then plays the ♠4 from his hand. Do you play low? or play the ♠J to force dummy's ♠A?

When you have made your choice

If West decides to finesse the ♠T then you will still win the one ♠ trick which you are entitled to win.

However, with West holding the ♠Q it would be very logical for him to go up with the ♠A then lead back toward his ♠Q, playing South for the ♠K. If he plays this way you will get two tricks and defeat the contract.