

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 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

	N	♠ 8 3
W		♥ J T 6 2
	E	♦ K J 9 5 4 2
S		♣ 3

♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2
♥ 8 5
♦ 6
♣ T 7 5

West	North	East	South
			3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

4 ♠ by North

Baker Signals 17

You are East. 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 West 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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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
			2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT 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

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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

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

6 ♠ by South

fails.

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

Baker Signals 19

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

When you have made your choice

If you believe South 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 South 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 South has one more ♥ . So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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.