

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



♠ 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			

3 NT 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.

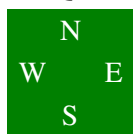
Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ T 4
 ♥ J T 5 4
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ J T 9 3

♠ A 6
 ♥ K 9 3
 ♦ A Q J 7 4
 ♣ K Q 7



♠ K Q J 8 2
 ♥ A 8 7 6 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A 2

♠ 9 7 5 3
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K T 5 2
 ♣ 8 6 5 4

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

6 ♥ by North

Baker SecondHand 2

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

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

When you have made your choice

South'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 South calls for dummy's ♥K, East's ♥Q falls and you now have 2 trump tricks. If you had played the ♥T you would have tossed away the setting trick.

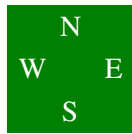
Board 3

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 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



♠ 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

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All Pass			

4 ♥ by South

Baker SecondHand 3

You are West. 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

South has 5 ♥s and North 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

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 3
♥ J T 8 5
♦ T 6
♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ A T 5

♥ Q 6 3

♦ 8 7 4 2

♣ J 8 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 9 7 4 2

♥ 9 4

♦ A K Q J

♣ A K

♠ 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 South

Baker SecondHand 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

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

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

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