

Board 1

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 3
♥ A K 9 7 5
♦ Q 9 5
♣ 6 3

♠ K Q 6

♥ Q T 4

♦ J

♣ A J 9 8 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ 8 2
♦ T 7 6 4 3
♣ K 7

♠ A T 4
♥ J 6 3
♦ A K 8 2
♣ Q T 5

West	North	East	South
1♥ Pass	2♣ Pass	Pass All Pass	1♦ 3♣

3 NT by North

Baker ThirdHand 13

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥8, dummy played the ♥J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

North played dummy's ♥J to tempt you to cover.
Don't fall for it.

Partner's lead of a high spot card shows no honors in the suit. That added to the fact that North bid Notrump after you had mentioned ♥s is pretty good evidence that North holds at least ♥ Q x x.

To maintain communication with partner your best hope is to duck the first ♥, but to signal encouragement with the ♥9.

North wins the first trick easily, but must try to establish ♣s. He will enter dummy with the ♠A, then try to run the ♣Q.

Not today. Partner takes the ♣K and returns his ♥2 to your four winners.

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 6 2

♥ T 6 4

♦ A J 6 5 4

♣ 9 2

♠ Q J 9 3

♥ K Q J 5

♦ 9 3

♣ Q J T

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 8 4

♥ 9 7 3

♦ T 8 7 2

♣ A 6 5 3

 ♠ A T 7 5
 ♥ A 8 2
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ K 8 7 4

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

4 ♠ by North

wait. Declarer then runs dummy's ♠Q. Partner wins the ♠K, returns his OTHER ♣ to your ♣A, and NOW you give him the ruff. He takes the ♦A for down 1.

Baker ThirdHand 14

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣9, dummy played the ♣T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Partner's ♣9 is likely from a short suit. If it is a singleton, you should take the ♣A immediately and return the suit for a ruff. If it is a doubleton, you should NOT take your ♣A now, but should hope partner can get the lead and play his second ♣ to your Ace so you can give him the ruff.

You can figure out which it is.

If it is a singleton, then South must hold 5 ♣s. But you know South has 4 ♠s, so if he also has 5 ♣s then he only has 4 red cards, and he would not have opened 1NT with either 5-4-2-2 or 5-4-3-1 distribution.

So partner's ♣9 is not a singleton, and you should

Board 3

West Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q J 9 7

♥ K Q 6 5 3

♦ T

♣ A 6 4

♠ A K 4

♥ A 7 4

♦ A K 7 3

♣ Q 5 2



♠ T 8 3

♥ T 2

♦ Q J 8 6 4 2

♣ 8 3

♠ 6 5 2

♥ J 9 8

♦ 9 5

♣ K J T 9 7

West	North	East	South
1♥	Dbl	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3 NT by South

Baker ThirdHand 15

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥T, dummy played the ♥J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Declarer gets two ♥ winners whether you play one of your honors on this trick or not. So why does it matter what you do?

Suppose you cover with your ♥Q. North will win his ♥A, then play ♣s until your ♣A is forced out on the third round. He can then force an entry to dummy in the ♥ suit to reach the two ♣ winners.

Now suppose you duck the ♥J. Again North will push ♣s, and again you hold up until the third round. Ahh, what a difference. Now declarer cannot use the ♥s to enter dummy and he will never get to enjoy those two ♣ winners.

Board 4

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q
♥ T 9 6 5 2
♦ J 8 6 3
♣ 6 4 2

♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ K Q
♦ A 5
♣ K J T 8 5

N
W
E
S

♠ K T 9 8 6
♥ 8 7 4
♦ Q 7 4
♣ A Q

♠ A J 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K T 9 2
♣ 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT by North

Now do it the right way. Play your ♠K on partner's ♠Q. Assume South takes the trick, although it doesn't matter whether he wins the first one or holds up. When you win your first ♣ drive out South's ♠J. When you win your second ♣ trick your ♠s will be good. If you overtake the first trick the contract can no longer be made.

Notice that South will always make two ♠ tricks, so your overtake costs nothing.

Baker ThirdHand 16

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠Q, a low card was played from dummy, and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

It seems that perhaps you should play low and let partner's ♠Q force out South's ♠A. Then, when you get the lead with a high ♣ you can force out South's ♠J. Get the lead with your other high ♣ and set the contract with ♠s.

Suppose you try that. Play low on the first ♠. South will also play low and West will be left holding the trick, and also holding the bag! With no more ♠s West will have to play one of the other three suits, and that is just what South wants to have happen. The contract could no longer be beaten.