

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A
♥ T 8 5 2
♦ 9 8 5 3
♣ A T 8 7

♠ Q J 4
♥ A K 6
♦ K Q J
♣ J 5 4 3



♠ 7 3 2
♥ J 9 7 4 3
♦ A T 6
♣ 9 2

♠ K T 9 8 6 5
♥ Q
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K Q 6

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

4 ♠ by South

Baker 100NT 31

Partner's 2♥ bid is a transfer so you bid 2♠. Partner now bids 4♠ and you pass.

West takes the ♣A, then returns the ♣7 on which East plays the ♣2.

Careful! Although it looks like only 3 losers you are in real danger of a ♣ ruff. It is almost certain that East has led a doubleton ♣ so if West can get the lead with either ♠A or ♦A they will get the ruff.

Fortunately your ♦s are solid and you do not need the ♥Q as a winner.

So before playing any trumps play ♥A K, discarding dummy's ♣K. That's a lot of winners you are wasting but you can afford it.

Only then can you afford to play a ♠. West can win the ♠A, but if he plays a ♣ dummy will be able to over-ruff East.

After you pull trumps you can drive out the ♦A and claim the contract.

You had to get rid of dummy's singleton ♥ first - the fact that it was a winner should not affect your making the correct play.

Board 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K T 7 2

♥ Q J T 3

♦ Q J 4

♣ A 7

♠ 5 3

♥ 7 6

♦ T 5

♣ 9 8 6 5 4 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q J 8 4

♥ A K 5

♦ 9 8 6 2

♣ Q T

♠ A 9 6

♥ 9 8 4 2

♦ A K 7 3

♣ K J

West

North

East

South

Pass

2♠

Pass

3♣

All Pass

3♣ by South

the ♣A. Just go back and look at the bidding again. The East hand failed to open the bidding in first seat. And since then you have seen the ♥ A K and the ♠ Q come out of the hand. That's 9 points and the ♣A would bring that total to 13. Since he passed it follows that he doesn't have the ♣A. Of course he might or might not have the ♣Q, you just have to hope for that card.

But good players don't forget, they use every bit of information they can get to help them make their contracts. That's why they make more contracts.

Baker 100NT 32

Many people play Jacoby Transfer convention. Not all of them play that an initial response of 2♠ asks partner to bid 3♣. You use that here and reply 3♣. Everybody passes.

South plays 3♣. West leads the ♥Q. East takes the ♥A K, then switches to the ♠Q.

Instead of trying to estimate how many ♣ losers you may have, just tell yourself that you can only afford to lose one! Then you base your plan on that requirement.

You might as well win the ♠A. You need to play the trumps from dummy and the easiest way to get there is to play ♦A K, then ruff a ♦. Now play a ♣ from dummy and play what from your hand?

You may think it is a guess whether to play the ♣K or ♣J, but there is no guessing involved here. You must play the ♣J because East cannot possibly hold

Board 3

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ T 9 6 3
♥ T 8 5 2
♦ Q T 9
♣ J 6

♠ A K J

♥ A Q 3

♦ A 4 3

♣ K T 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 8 2

♥ J 6 4

♦ J 7 5

♣ 9 8 7 3

♠ 7 5 4

♥ K 9 7

♦ K 8 6 2

♣ A Q 5

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

6NT by North

will defeat you even if the ♠Q was with West.

Two chances are always better than one. The way to take both chances is to duck a ♦ at trick 2. Win whatever the defenders play next and then test the ♦s. If they do split your last ♦ will be trick #12. But if they don't split you can still try the ♠ finesse.

to see.

Baker 100NT 33

Partner's 4NT bid is not Blackwood, it is the Quantitative 4NT. He is unsure whether to bid 6NT or not, so is inviting you to do so.

With 20 points you are supposed to pass. With 21 points you are supposed to bid 6NT. The evaluations probably aren't that accurate, but at least you have an excuse to bid 6NT.

West plays the ♣J which you take with your ♣K.

There are two places you might find your twelfth winner. You can finesse West for the ♠Q; this is a 50% chance. Or, the ♦s might split 3-3; this is about a 40% chance.

If you try the ♠ finesse and it fails you will go down even if the ♦s are splitting 3-3.

If you play ♦A, ♦K then another ♦, a 4-2 ♦ split

Board 4

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ J 7 3
♥ K J 9
♦ Q J T 4
♣ 8 5 2

♠ K 8 6 2

♥ 7 5

♦ A K 7

♣ A K 6 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q T 5 4

♥ A 8 4 2

♦ 9 6 3

♣ T 7

♠ A 9

♥ Q T 6 3

♦ 8 5 2

♣ Q J 9 4

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

3 NT by South

fact hold up and that East does in fact continue ♦s with West following suit.

Don't worry any more about the ♦s since there is nothing more you can do. Instead, worry about where that one more winner is going to come from. The answer will have to be: *from the ♠H suit*.

You might be tempted to take your 4 ♣ tricks right away, but avoid the temptation. The ♣ suit is your convenient transportation back and forth between hands.

You will have to lose at least 2 ♥ tricks in order to set up 1 winner, and by the time you do that the defenders will have established at least 1 more ♦ trick. What that means is that you cannot afford 3 ♥ losers. So how will you play the ♥s?

You should play East for the ♥J plus one of the big ones. This is a better chance than playing him for both the ♥A K. So play a ♥ toward dummy and insert the ♥T when East plays low. West wins with the ♥A and clears the ♦s. Play another ♥ toward dummy's ♥Q. East can take his ♥K and cash his ♦ winner but dummy's ♥Q will be your ninth trick.

East could hold both the ♥A and ♥K, in which case leading toward dummy's ♥Q would be the winning play.

East could hold EITHER ♥A J x OR ♥K J x in which case finessing dummy's ♥J would be the winning play. This is the more likely distribution of the two.

Baker 100NT 34

With 9 points you have just enough to respond. And with a 4-card Major suit you should use Stayman so you bid 2♣. Partner duly replies 2♠. What do you say now?

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You don't have a 4-4 ♥ fit, so you invite the notrump game by bidding 2NT. Partner raises to 3NT.

The contract would be 3NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3NT and East leads the ♦Q. Should you win or hold up?

A pretty good argument against holding up could be that they might switch to ♠s. However, say you do in fact hold up and that East does in fact continue ♦s with West following suit.

Board 5

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ K Q J T
 ♥ K J 9 7 5 4
 ♦ A
 ♣ 9 5

♠ A 9 5
 ♥ Q T 2
 ♦ K Q T 6 3
 ♣ K 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 4 2
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ 9 7 4
 ♣ J T 7 4 3

♠ 8 7 3
 ♥ A 6
 ♦ J 8 5 2
 ♣ A Q 6 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3 NT by South

Baker 100NT 35

You should not make a takeout double with three cards in their suit. A 2♦ overcall would be a reasonable choice. But with 15 points, balanced, and a stopper in ♥s a 1NT overcall is probably better.

Partner bids 3NT.

As expected, East leads his partner's ♥ suit.

You need at least 4 ♦ winners.

If you play low from dummy on the ♥ lead West can win the ♥K but this will give you an extra ♥ stopper. He could drive out dummy's ♥A at trick 2, but you would then establish ♦s and make an overtrick!

But who said West would play another ♥ after winning the ♥K? What if he wins the ♥K and switches to ♠s? They might then win 3 ♠ tricks to go with their ♥K and ♦A.

Instead you should grab the first trick with dummy's ♥A and start playing ♦s. West will take the ♦A but you still have the ♠A and ♥Q as stoppers.

to see.

Don't give him the chance.

Board 6

North Deals

None Vul

♠ T 2
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ T 8 5 4
 ♣ Q T 6 2

♠ K 6 3

♥ A T 5

♦ A 7 6 2

♣ A 7 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q J 9 7 4

♥ -

♦ K Q J 3

♣ J 8 3

♠ 8 5

♥ Q J 9 7 6 4 2

♦ 9

♣ K 9 4

West

North

East

South

1NT

2♠

4♥

All Pass

4♥ by South

East's ♠A! Another ♠ from East won't hurt you since dummy would be able to over-ruff West. Whatever East plays you can win, then finesse West out of his ♥K.

for the full layout.

That was true, so instead you were able to discard it on a loser!

Baker 100NT 36

You would really like to have a transfer bid in this situation, to make North bid ♥s.

But you don't have one, so you just bid 4♥ yourself.

You play low in dummy and West holds the trick. He continues the suit and East takes the ♠Q and then plays the ♠A.

You've already lost the 2 ♠s. If West has the ♥K you might avoid a loser there. You don't have a winner on which to discard the ♣ loser.

If East has the ♥K it will have to be a singleton to help you, so it is more logical to play West for the ♥K. But if West does have the ♥K it will do you no good to ruff East's ♠A, West will over-ruff and you would still have that ♣ loser.

So do it this way instead. Discard the ♣ loser on