

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ T 8 4 3
♥ J 5 2
♦ T 4
♣ K T 8 6

♠ A J 2

♥ K Q 4

♦ K Q 7 5

♣ Q 7 2

N
W
E
S

♠ 9 7 6
♥ T 9 8 7
♦ J 9 6 3
♣ 9 5

♠ K Q 5
♥ A 6 3
♦ A 8 2
♣ A J 4 3

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	6NT

All Pass

6NT by South

Baker SecondHand 13

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥T, won by dummy's ♥A. At trick 2 North calls for dummy's ♣3. Which card do you play?

When you have made your choice

You would not have been expecting North to play a small ♣ from dummy's holding. The only way it makes sense is if North holds the ♣Q.

If you play your ♣K you will win the trick, but in so doing you will set up 3 ♣ tricks for North, which is all he needs to make the slam.

Play low instead and North will win his ♣Q. But now your ♣K sits behind dummy's ♣J 4 so he can get only one more trick in the suit, the ♣A.

Board 2

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J T 9 6

♥ -

♦ T 8 6 4 3

♣ A 8 4 3

♠ K 7 2

♥ K J T 9 3

♦ 7 2

♣ K J T



♠ 8 4 3

♥ 7 4

♦ Q J 9 5

♣ Q 9 7 5

♠ A Q 5

♥ A Q 8 6 5 2

♦ A K

♣ 6 2

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

All Pass
6♥ by South

Baker SecondHand 14

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠J, the ♠K is played from dummy and holds the trick. Next come dummy's ♥K, then another trump to South's ♥A.

At trick 4 South plays the ♣2 from his hand and you must decide what to play.

When you have made your choice

South has 2 small ♣s and faces a choice of dummy plays in the suit. He must decide whether to play you for the ♣A or the ♣Q. If you play your ♣A you make the decision very easy for him.

When you correctly play your small ♣ life becomes harder for South. Sometimes he will guess correctly and play dummy's ♣K, but other times he will play dummy's ♣J, hoping you have the ♣Q.

Board 3

North Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 9 3
♥ Q 9 8
♦ A 7 3
♣ T 8 5 4

♠ K Q J

♥ A K 7 3

♦ Q T 9 4

♣ 7 3



♠ T 8 7 6 2
♥ T 5 4
♦ K 6
♣ J 9 6

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

East's ♦K will be an entry to the ♠s

If you play low, East will have to take the ♦K now, and although he can play a ♠ to establish the suit, he will not have an entry to be able to cash them.

Baker SecondHand 15

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♠6. You won the ♠A and returned the ♠9, won by North's ♠Q.

North next played to dummy's ♣A and led the ♦2. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

Count the points. North's 15-17 plus South's 11 plus your T comes to 36-38. So East has room for an Ace or a King, but no more.

East's second ♠ play was the 2, so it looks like he started with 5 ♠s. And the fall of North's ♠s looks like he may have 1 ♠ left, very likely the ♠K.

All this means that you should take your ♦A now and return your last ♠ to establish East's suit. Now

Board 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 4
♥ A 2
♦ T 6 4 3
♣ Q J T 7 5

♠ K Q 8 6

♥ K 7 5 3

♦ A Q 5

♣ 8 4



♠ 5 2
♥ Q J T
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ 9 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠

All Pass

Baker SecondHand 16

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♣Q, East plays low and South wins the ♣A.

South pulls trumps in 2 rounds. He then takes the ♦K, ♦Q, ♦A, discarding a ♥ on the last one. Next he plays dummy's last ♣ to his ♣K.

Having done all this, South now plays a low ♥ from his hand. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

If you followed what South was doing you will realize that he has eliminated both the ♦s and ♣s from both his hand and dummy. If it isn't clear that he is now out of ♣s, just remember the bidding - he must have had 5 ♠s and 4 ♥s.

6 ♠ by South

Suppose you play low on this ♥ (as South hopes you will). Dummy's ♥K will take the trick, and when another ♥ is played you will have to win it with your now bare ♥A. You will then have to play a ♦ or a ♣, giving South a ruff and sluff.

But if you take your ♥A now, then exit with your ♥2, South can win the ♥K but will still have to lose a ♥ to East.

Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 8 4 3
♥ Q T 4
♦ 8 7 3
♣ J 8 7 4

♠ A 6

♥ A K 9 6 5

♦ J T 5

♣ Q T 2

N
W
E
S

♠ K Q J 9 5
♥ -
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ 9 6 5 3

♠ T 7 2
♥ J 8 7 3 2
♦ A K Q
♣ A K

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

6♥ by South

and play another ♥, finessing your ♥T. With no trump loser he will make the slam.

Baker SecondHand 17

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

East led the ♠K, won by North's ♠A. North played a small ♣ to dummy's ♣A, then led dummy's ♥J.

What do you play? ♥Q or ♥4?

When you have made your choice

Remember that North opened 1♥, so he has 5 of them. With only 3 trumps out he has no intention of finessing. Perhaps he led the ♥J just to tempt you to cover in this situation.

If you play low he will win with one of his high ♥s and then you will have a sure ♥ winner. Along with the ♠ winner East has you will defeat the slam.

If you cover the ♥J with your ♥Q North will again win with one of his high ones. But now the position will be clear to North and he will return to dummy

Board 6

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 9 5 2

♥ 7 2

♦ 8 6 4

♣ T 8 5 3

♠ Q J 6

♥ T 5 4

♦ A K 3

♣ A Q 7 4



♠ K T 7 4

♥ A 3

♦ J T 9 2

♣ K J 9

♠ 8 3

♥ K Q J 9 8 6

♦ Q 7 5

♣ 6 2

West	North	East	South
			2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

4♥ by North

established soon. So go up with the ♠A and play a ♣ through dummy's ♣ A Q. When South tries the ♠ suit again EAST can win and cash his ♣K for the setting trick.

If you play low on South's ♠ play East will be forced to win the trick and he cannot profitably attack the ♣ suit from his side.

Baker SecondHand 18

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You decide a trump lead is called for and lead the ♥2. Your partner wins with the ♥A and plays the ♦J. South lets this go to dummy's ♦K, (but you know he has ♦Q), then plays a trump back to his ♥K, pulling the 2 outstanding trumps from West and East.

South's next play is the ♠3 from his hand. Do you play your ♠A or not?

When you have made your choice

Even if South doesn't have the ♠K he can establish a ♠ winner just by leading twice toward the ♠ Q J. That winner will take care of whatever black-suit loser he may have.

If East has a ♣ trick it is important to get it established soon. So go up with the ♠A and play a ♣ through dummy's ♣ A Q. When South tries the ♠ suit again EAST can win and cash his ♣K for the setting trick.