

## ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD 1430

RKCB 1430 is a variation of the Blackwood Convention. The advantage it offers is that much more information can be communicated with 1430 than with regular Blackwood. Specifically, locating the king and the queen of trump as well as aces with the 4NT ask bid.

The “Key Cards” are the 4 aces and the king of trump. So, there are 5 key cards. The answers to the 4NT asking bid are:

*** 5 Clubs	= 1 or 4 keycards	Get It?
*** 5 Diamonds	= 3 or 0 keycards	1 or 4    3 or 0    = 1430 Blackwood
*** 5 Hearts	= 2 or 5 without the queen of trump	
*** 5 Spades	= 2 or 5 with the queen of trump	

If the answer is 5 Hearts or 5 Spades, the queen of trump has been taken care of. But, what if the answer is 5 clubs or 5 diamonds? The 4NT bidder can still ask about the queen of trump by bidding the next higher suit available that is not the trump suit. That is, if responder answered 5 clubs, the asker can now bid 5 diamonds to ask about the queen of trump. If responder has the queen, he bids his cheapest king. If he has the queen, but has no kings, he bids 5NT. If he does not have the queen, he bids 5 of the trump suit.

After the answer to the 4NT bid if the 4NT bidder now bids 5NT, he is asking for kings. But, there are only 3 kings. We've already answered about the king of trump. The answers are the same as with regular Blackwood:

*** 6 Clubs	= 0 kings
*** 6 Diamonds	= 1 king
*** 6 Hearts	= 2 kings
*** 6 Spades	= 3 kings

RKCB also accommodates responses to show the number of keycards and a useful void. A void is not useful if it is a suit bid naturally by partner. Respond to the 4NT bid as follows:

*** 5 NT	= an even number of keycards and a useful void.
*** 6 of a lower ranking suit	= an odd number of keycards and a void in the bid suit.
*** 6 of the agreed suit	= an odd number of keycards and a void in a higher ranking suit.

So, let's look at some hands and auctions (opponents are passing):

Opener			Responder		
AQ64	1H		K5	2NT – Jacoby 2NT raise	
K10857	4NT	1430 RKCB	AQ64	5C – 1 or 4 keycards	
K3	5D	Do you have the	Q52	5S – * Yes, I do. And I have the King of S	
A6		Q of H?	K1032		
	6H	Placing the contract		(*or 5H = No, I don't))	
				(*or 5NT= Yes I do, but I don't have any kings)	
				(*or 6C= Yes I do, and I have the King of C, but not the King of S)	
		*	*	*	*
9876	1C		AKQ532	1S	
A5	2S		97	4NT – 1430 RKCB	
A102	5D	3 or 0 keycards	3	5S – I can't tell if you've got 0 or 3	
AJ76	6S	I've got 3	KQ32		
		*	*	*	*
KJ102	1D		A973	1H	
AQ76	3H	4 hearts, 17/18 pts	K1095	4NT – 1430 RKCB	
K98	5S	2 keycards with	A	5NT – How many kings do you have?	
A7		the Q of H	K982		
	5H	Two		7H – Placing the contract	
		*	*	*	*
AJ973	1S		KQ	2H	
K843	4H		AQ762	4NT – 1430 RKCB for Hearts	
AQ98	6C –*	odd # of keycards &	K32		
none		a club void	98	7H	
		(*or 5NT even # of keycards and a useful void)			

## GRAND SLAM FORCE

With a known fit, a JUMP to 5NT asks partner to bid 7 of the agreed suit IF he has two of the top three trump honors. Otherwise, partner should bid 6 of the agreed suit. If no suit has been agreed, the 5NT bid applies to the last suit bid. Grand Slam Force is not used after and kind of Blackwood has been bid or if partner has opened 1NT. Then, 1NT-5NT is still quantitative—NOT Grand Slam Force.

Opener		Responder	
K109832	1S	AQ76	3S
none	5NT—Grand Slam Force	J76	7S
AKQJ109		82	
A		K1053	