

WHY and WHEN YOU CUE BID FOR a SLAM

AK1087 DEALER – 1 Spade
3 4 Clubs
Q3 5 Clubs
AKJ103 6 Spades

J6	Pass	53	Pass
Q10942	Pass	K875	Pass
A76	Pass	10852	Pass
754	Pass	Q62	Pass

Q942 3 Spades
AJ6 3 Hearts
KJ94 5 Diamonds
98 Pass

North's 4 clubs showed the Ace, South showed the heart Ace, denied the diamond Ace.
North's still interested, 5 clubs showed the K, South's diamond bid showed the K.

AQ103 DEALER – 1 Club
A 3 Spades
K94 4 Hearts
Q7652

76		8	Pass
Q8654	Pass	J10732	Pass
10872	Pass	J653	Pass
A3		K109	

KJ9542 1 Spade
K9 4 Diamonds
AQ 4 Spades
J84

South cue bids first round control in diamonds. North shows first round control in hearts.
If South had good clubs, could have cue bid before diamond cue bid. If South had good clubs, KQJ, he could cue bid over 4 hearts.
West leads the A of clubs, East signals with the 10, lead club to King and get your ruff.
If South had used Ace asking and you get too high, you'll go down.

543 2 Diamonds
 A832 3 Clubs (Stayman)
 J109 3 NT
 542

QJ1087		9	Pass
J94	Pass	KQ10	Pass
86	Pass	75432	
J103	Pass	Q987	

AK62
 765 DEALER – 2 Clubs
 AKQ 2 NT
 AK6 3 Spades

West leads the Q of spades. Win the Ace. Ducking the spade would be in error, West might shift to a club. You have 8 top tricks and need a ninth. Plan your play???

The 2 club opening exists to prevent a one-bid from being passed out when you have a hand so strong that a Q or K from partner is enough to make game. I rarely open 2 clubs with two – suited hands. With two-suited hands, it's usually not necessary to open 2 Clubs, because two-suited hands are particularly to bid after a 2 club opening.

Most common type of hand for a 2 club opening is the 22 – plus balanced hand. – the hand too strong for a 2NT opening bid. These hands are relatively straightforward. Most of the other hands are very strong one – suiters, hands with a very good six – or – seven card suit that are within a trick or so for game. These are easy to bid because you have only one suit to bid. For example: AKJ9873 A AK3 7. Only 19 HCP, but basically nine tricks.

It is dangerous to use Blackwood using a void. If you are missing 2 Aces and partner shows one Ace, you won't know which one it is. It's better to cue bid when interested in a slam. I sometimes use my safety net, I cue bid and if I like partner's cue bid, then I'll ask for Aces.

Also use the lead-directing double when the opponents go through Blackwood, if the response to 4NT is the suit you want led.