



# SHARK'S POINTERS

ONLINE

**Advanced Slam Bidding Techniques**

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**5-22-20**



Easley  
Blackwood  
(1903-1992)

# “EASLEY MISUNDERSTOOD”

Last week, we highlighted some common  
Blackwood misunderstandings

This week we'll pick up where we left off and  
review more advanced slam bidding techniques.

Just 2 warnings before we get started...

#1) Try to avoid artificial bids

#2) Have easy-to-remember agreements

# **ADVANCED SLAM BIDDING TECHNIQUES**

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Today we'll discuss the following:

**“Minorwood”**

**Interference Over Blackwood**

**Modified Gerber**

**Keycard After Partner's Weak 2's and 3-Level Preempts**

**Void Showing Responses to Blackwood**

**“Baze”**

# “MINORWOOD”

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**Using 4NT for RKCB over a minor often gets the bidding to an untenably high level.**

**Many use the other minor as RKCB. Others use the suit above as RKCB.**

**They often do this when hearts is trumps – they use 4S as RKCB. (“Kickback”)**

**I don’t do either, because many times the Q bid is helpful, the artificial bid invites opps to make lead directional doubles – and many other accidents occur.**

**I prefer what is called “Minorwood” – a bid of 4 of our known minor is RKCB.**

**e.g. 1♦-2♦\* (inverted raise) -4♦\* (RKCB)**

**Responses are progressive (once again I use 1430), so**

**4♥ =1or4   4♠ =0or3   4N=2w/oQ   5♣ =2w/Q**

I CAN BE BOUGHT...  
BUT I HATE KICKBACK!!

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**ESCHEW  
OBFUSCATION!!!**

**KISS**

(Keep It Simple Stupid!)

Which leads to our next  
topic....



# INTERFERENCE OVER BLACKWOOD

This comes up once every 10 years or so, but when it does it is very important you don't forget your agreement!

"Shark Standard" is

**DOPE/ROPE at  
all levels**

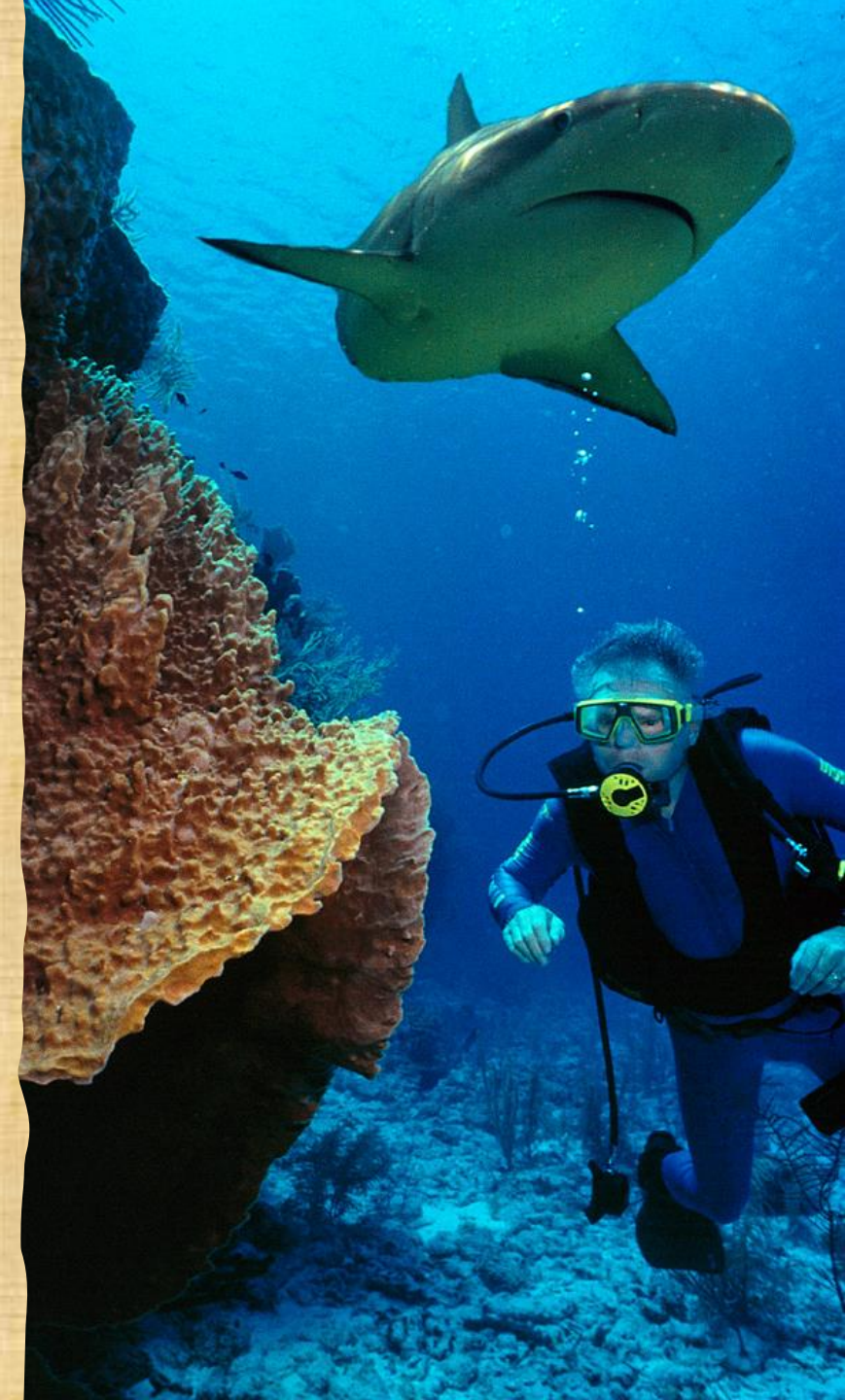


**DOPE = KISS ROPE is  
made from HEMP**

# THERE IS NO “GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT SHARK”!

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- Last week, I showed a disastrous result when my partner and I had a misunderstanding in a slam auction.
- Beware – The bids we’ll discuss today may have different interpretations.
- Make sure you and your partner have the same understanding!



# MODIFIED GERBER

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There are times when you want to know only about Aces

After partner opens 1NT or 2NT:

A jump to 4♣ asks "how many aces?"


"Shark Standard" combines Gerber and RKCB (1430)

4♦ = 1 or 4      4♥ = 0 or 3

4♠ = 2 with a minimum      4N = 2 with a **MAXIMUM**

Helps remembering the responses – and it adds valuable info!





**Beware of Shark  
Infested Waters!**

# RKCB AFTER PARTNER'S WEAK 2

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If partner opens a weak 2, you may want to look for a slam-without going beyond game level. Partner is limited to the number of keycards he can hold. Try this mnemonic:

0 1 1 2 2

0 = No keycards

1 = 1 without the Queen

1 = 1 with the Queen

2 = 2 without the Queen

2 = 2 keycards with the Queen of trumps

NOTE! 2♥ -4♣ -4♥ = (1 w/o)    2♠ -4♣ -4♠ = (1 with)

# GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SEMIFINAL

## JULY 20, 2019 LAS VEGAS NABC D25 VS D17

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NORTH

Pat McDevitt

Sherri Weinstock WEST

♠ J876532

♥ 2

♦ 2

♣ J432

SOUTH

Mark Aquino

♠ Q109

♥ AK1098

♦ 65

♣ 9 87

♠ A

♥ J543

♦ KQ43

♣ AKQ6

Neither Vul Dlr N

Fred Gitelman EAST

♠ K4

♥ Q76

♦ AJ10987

♣ 105

N E S W

2H P 4C P

4S P 5H All Pass

Opening Lead ♦ A

Down 1 MINUS 100

# RKCB AFTER 3 LEVEL PREEMPTS

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After 3  / 3  / 3       4  = RCKB

After 3       4  is to play

After 3       4  = RKCB

In all cases    0 1 **1** 2 2

**NOTE!** 3  - 4  - 4  = 1 without the Q

3  - 4  - 4  = 1 with the Q

# VOID SHOWING RESPONSES TO BLACKWOOD

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Some may recall this hand from an earlier “Shark’s Pointers” (*“Hurry Up or Wait”*)

♠ KQ10

♥ Q10987

♦ AQ6

♣ AQ

♠ Void

♥ AKJ32

♦ KJ32

♣ J432

In response to 4NT (RKCB), in order to show a void and the number of keycards, here are the rules:

5NT = Void with an EVEN # of keycards

6 of non trump suit = Void in that suit w/ ODD #

6 of trump suit = Void in a suit higher w/ ODD#

Q: After 1H-2N\*-3S\*-4N – what do you bid?

A: (In “Shark Standard”) 5NT is correct bid

# WHAT TO DO WITH THESE HANDS?

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**1NT-2C-2H-?**

 **AQ107**

 **K10**

 **K102**

 **KJ98**

**1NT-2C-2S-?**

 **AQ107**

 **K10**

 **K102**

 **KJ98**

# WHAT TO DO WITH THESE HANDS?

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1NT-2C-2H-?

♠ AQ107

♥ K10

♦ K102

♣ KJ98

**We agreed 4NT**

1NT-2C-2S-?

♠ AQ107

♥ K10

♦ K102

♣ KJ98

**Anyway we could  
ask for Keycards?**

# WE HAVE A 4 CARD MAJOR & SLAM INTEREST -PARTNER SHOWS THE OTHER MAJOR

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1NT-2C-2H-?

♠ AQ107

We start with 2♣ (Stayman)

♥ K10

Partner shows 4 of the other major

♦ K102

**We bid 4NT**

♣ KJ98

This is NOT Blackwood!!

It is invitational to 6NT or 6 of the other major

It is NOT FORCING, with a min, 1NT opener can pass



# WE HAVE A 4-4 MAJOR FIT AND WE WANT TO KNOW KEYCARDS

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1NT-2C-2S-?

♠ AQ107

We start with 2 ♣ (Stayman)

♥ K10

Partner shows 4 of our major

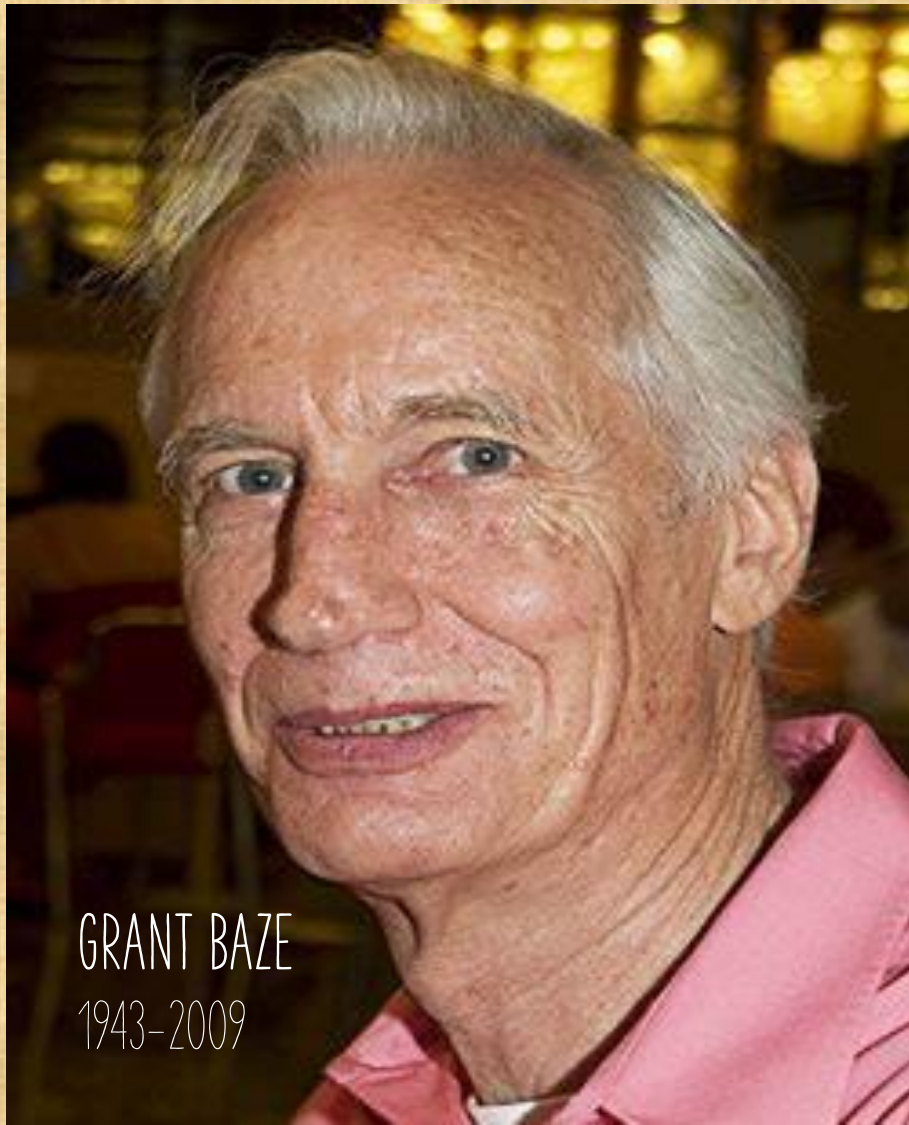
♦ K102

To find keycards, we jump to 4 ♣

♣ KJ98

# THE BAZE CONVENTION

A top West Coast bridge pro named Grant Baze came up with a system that addresses all the various slam invitational sequences after 1N-2C.



GRANT BAZE

1943-2009

# WE HAVE A 4-4 ♠ FIT, SHORTNESS AND SLAM INTEREST

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1NT-2C-2S-?

♠ AQ107

We start with 2♣ (Stayman)

♥ K102

Partner shows 4 spades (our major)

♦ 8

With shortness, and slam interest, we bid 3♥

♣ AJ987

1NT opener bids the next step to find shortness

*1NT-2C-2S-3H\*(Slam Invite 4 spades and shortness) -3S\*(Where short?)-4D (1♦ )*

*NOTE: On this sequence, partner bids 4C/4D/4H to show 1 C/D/H*

# WE HAVE A 4-4 ♥ FIT, SHORTNESS AND SLAM INTEREST

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1NT-2C-2H-?

♠ 2

We start with 2 ♣ (Stayman)

♥ AK107

Partner shows four hearts (our major)

♦ K102

With ANY shortness, we bid 3 ♠

♣ AJ987

1NT opener bids the next step to find shortness

*1NT-2C-2H-3S\*(4 ♥ slam invite with shortness)-3N\*(Where's short?) -4H\*(1 spade)*

*NOTE: On this sequence, partner bids 4C 4D to show 1 C/D, bids 4H to show 1 spade*

# WE HAVE A 4-4 MAJOR FIT, SLAM INTEREST AND NO SHORTNESS

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1NT-2C-2S-?

♠ AQ107

We start with 2♣ (Stayman)

♥ K10

Partner shows 4 of our major

♦ K102

With no shortness, we jump to 4♦

♣ KJ98

The background of the slide features a deep blue, underwater scene with several sharks swimming. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright light source from the top center creating a lens flare and illuminating the water. The sharks are silhouetted against the lighter water, with one large shark in the foreground and several others in the background.

**TODAY'S MOST IMPORTANT SHARK'S POINTERS**

**ADVANCED SLAM BIDDING TECHNIQUES CAN  
PROVIDE GREAT RESULTS... BUT**

**GETTING SLAM AUCTIONS WRONG  
CAN BE DISASTROUS!**

**Beware of Shark  
Infested Waters!**