

Blackwood - Roman Key Card Blackwood

Asking for Aces with a fit

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The first convention that everyone is taught is generally Blackwood (4NT) asking for aces. It is also the most misused and abused convention. Similarly GERBER (4♣) is abused as it is intended for use over No Trump, and is not used over a suit when a fit is found.

Blackwood is not intended to be bid with 2 quick losers in a suit. Cue-bids of Aces begin at the 4 level. When partner has cue-bid your suit with 2 losers, then bid Blackwood.

Recommended Reading for RKC Blackwood

http://www.bridgebum.com/roman_key_card_blackwood.php

Recommended Reading for Minorwood

http://www.bridgeguys.com/Conventions/minorwood_convention.html

There are 5 "key cards" in Roman Key Card Blackwood. The 4 aces and the King of trump. 4 No Trump asks for the number of Key Cards held by partner.

1430 or 0314

Originally 0314 was the norm, however today 1430 appears to be preferred.

After partner's response to RKC 4NT; with a 5♣ or 5♦ response, you can ask for the Queen with a 5♦ bid over 5♣ and with a 5♥ bid over 5♦ when you "have room" between your agreed trump suit and bid suit. Bid Slam with the Queen & show a King on the way to slam!

Responses to 4NT

- 5♣ = 1 or 4 Key Cards
- 5♦ = 0 or 3 Key Cards
- 5♥ = 2 Key Cards without the Queen of Trump
- 5♠ = 2 Key Cards with the Queen of Trump

5NT after 4NT guarantees all of the Key Cards including the Queen of Trump and asks for Kings. Cheapest King is preferred.

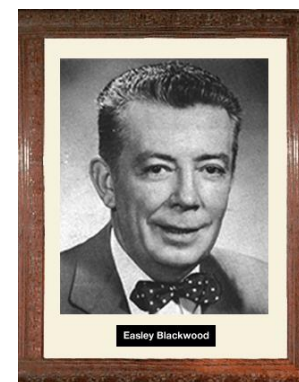
A jump to 5NT is a GRAND SLAM FORCE asking partner to bid 7 of their suit with 2 of the top 3 honors.



Minor & RKC Blackwood Tournament Series #12

www.bridgewebs.com/borderlinebridge

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Grafton Duplicate Bridge Club

Thursday Noon – Ameriprise Financial Bldg
Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 11am
Director – Michael Leighton (701) 520-0753

Grand Forks Duplicate Bridge Club

Monday 6:30pm – GF Senior Center
Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 5:45pm
Friday 12:30pm – EGF Senior Center
Director – Tom Rand (701) 742-3676

Ambassador Bridge Club Winnipeg MB

Tuesday 12:15pm – MB Bridge Centre
Stratified Pairs
Wednesday 7pm – MB Bridge Centre
Invitational Pairs and Swiss Teams
Thursday 1pm – (0 – 200) Temple Shalom
Play and learn
Saturday 12:30pm – MB Bridge Centre
Swiss Teams
Director – Bill and Sue Treble (204) 669-1458

Minorwood Bidding Options



I know we are getting married in a few minutes...
But I just received a Grand Slam hand...

Minorwood

When the partnership has determined that a minor suit fit is the best possibility for slam, Minorwood is invoked with a jump over an inverted minor to 4 of the agreed suit.

Or after a transfer to a minor over 1NT a bid of 4 of that minor becomes Minorwood.

Minorwood is for advanced partnerships that are concerned with missing minor suit slams. There are many variations of Minorwood and it should be played only by established partnerships, meaning partners that play together on a regular basis.

If the partnership uses 1430 Roman Key Card Blackwood, then they also use 1430 responses to Minorwood.

Minorwood Examples

W N E S

1♣ P 2♣ Inverted Minor

P 4♣ Minorwood for ♣ 1430
response

4♦ 1 or 4 Key Cards etc

5♦ Suit bid guarantees all
Key Cards/asks for Kings

W N E S

1NT P 2NT Transfer to ♦

P 2♦ 4♦ Minorwood for ♦

Raising the Minorwood response 1 full level (4♦ to 5♦) asks for Kings. 1430 replies are acceptable for Kings, however the cheapest King is the preferred option.

Quantitative versus RKC Blackwood

It is important to remember that 1NT - 4NT is not Blackwood or RKC Blackwood, it is quantitative and asks partner to bid 6NT with a maximum and to PASS with a minimum. To ask for Aces over NT bid 4♣ GERBER.

Queen Ask

When you have room in the bidding, 4♥ is the queen ask, just like RKC Blackwood. Bid Slam with the Queen!

Minorwood responses are the same as the agreed up RKC Blackwood responses. If you play 1430, then 1430, by design this keeps things less complicated and easier to remember.

Law of Total Tricks by Larry Cohen

You are aware that with 5 card support for partner's opening 5 card major and less than opening count, you jump to game in the major.

Basically, you know that you have 10 trump and the combined hands will normally take 10 tricks. The law of total tricks says that you can compete for the number of tricks equal to the number of trump that you hold in the combined hands.

When partner has opened a 5 card major and as responder you have 4 card support, you should be thinking that even with a minimum (6/7 hcp) that you can bid to the 3 level if you have to in the auction. Likewise when opener has a 6 card major and responder has shown a 3 card raise.

The law of total tricks, while not infallible is effective on close decisions when wondering if you should compete to the 3 level in a competitive auction and the opponents have found a fit at the 2 level. Larry Cohen's Book "The Law of Total Tricks" is highly recommended.