



## Fourth Suit Forcing

Fourth Suit Forcing is used when three suits have been bid, and partner next to bid does not have a stop in the fourth suit.

For Example:

North is holding

	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
♠ 10 3				
♥ 9 2	1♣	P	1♠	P
♦ A K Q 10	2♦	P	2♠	P
♣ A K Q 10 9	?			

A good strong hand with **18** High Card Points.

After South's repeat of Spades, North knows South will be not much stronger than 6 HCP, and holds at least five Spades, and probably six.

North has great control of the Minors in his hand and the knowledge that partner has length in Spades.

The question left is can South help to control the Hearts?



## BJ L07 Fourth Suit Forcing


## NOTES

The partners have agreed to use the Convention, or Method, known as Fourth Suit Forcing.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♥			

If either of them bids the fourth suit, they are not saying that they have that suit, they are asking if partner can help with control in that suit.

Clubs were Suit 1, Spades were Suit 2, Diamonds were Suit 3, so Hearts is the "Fourth Suit". The "Forcing" part of the convention name refers to the fact that partner must reply.

This bid is artificial, not covered by the Announcing rules, and is below the level of 3NT. At the table the ALERT card is  used. Online, the Alert button and text will be used.

The response is considered natural; it does not need to be alerted.



## Responding to Fourth Suit Forcing

### South is holding

♠ K Q J 9 5 2

♥ 9 2

♦ 4 3 2

♣ 3 2

South has no control in hearts.  
The spades are a six-card suit  
and so South repeats them.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	

With this information North must decide on the contract.



Alternatively...

South is holding

♠ K Q J 9 4

♥ K Q

♦ 4 3 2

♣ 3 2

South has a control in hearts.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	

The control is shown with a response of 3NT

If the auction permits, the method can sometimes be used at an invitational level.