

# Roman Key-card Blackwood

4NT is 5-ace Blackwood (4 aces + trump king)

Note: If the trump suit is agreed in some way, then the trump king is obvious. If there is doubt, then the last naturally bid suit is assumed to be trumps!

Replies:

5♣ = 0/3 keycards

5♦ = 1/4

5♥ = 2/5 without the trump Q

5♠ = 2/5 with the trump Q

After the initial response, a bid of 5NT guarantees that all keycards are held, and it asks for kings. There are a variety of methods used.

There is now a complication. If the trump queen has been shown (i.e. with a 5♠ response) then there are only three kings in the response. The responses to 5NT can be:

6♣ = 0

6♦ = 1

6♥ = 2

6♠ = 3

**Obviously, the Opener needs to plan ahead and only use the 5NT bid if he/she can deal with any response!**

Note: Some players bid the lowest king; this helps when the 'asker' wants to know about a specific king ie he holds something like AQx in a side suit.

Now if the trump queen was not shown in the initial response to 4NT, then when 5NT is used, the trump queen becomes a king in the 5NT ask (i.e. there are now 4-kings)!

Another part of the RKCB system is the specific ask of the trump queen after the 5-ace response. This is best shown as an example:

1♠	4♣*
4NT*	5♦*
5♥*	?

Here 4♣ was a splinter, agreeing spades.

4NT was RKCB

5♦ showed 1 keycard (or 4!)

5♥ (the next suit - non-trump suit) is the **trump queen** ask. Responder bids 5♠ (the trump suit) to DENY the queen. If Responder does have the trump queen then he/she bids a suit showing the lowest king. If a king is not held then Responder bids 6♠ (a small slam in the trump suit).

Another alternative that is popular, for showing kings, is:

- If **one** of the 3 side kings is held, bid that suit
- If **two** of the 3 side kings is held, bid the suit that you have not got the king in!

It seems complicated but it works!