



THE SPECIFIC KING ASK

by Spike Lay

After a 4NT RKC ask 5NT asks for specific kings. 5NT also guarantees all of the keycards and the queen of trumps, so responder can bid a grand if he can count 13 tricks – he need not respond kings. For example, if you hold Kxx Axx xx KQJ10x and the bidding goes as follows ...

| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♠ | 4NT |
| 5♥ (2 without the queen) | 5NT |
| ? | |

Bid 7NT. Partner has shown at least AQxxx xxx Axx Ax so you can count 12 top tricks, and partner must have more than this to be bidding so strongly. He will have a 6th trump or another king at least.

Most of the time when partner bids 5NT you just bid your cheapest king if you have one. With no king in a sides suit (the king of trumps is already accounted for, so you don't show it) bid 6 of the trump suit. With 2 kings bid the cheaper one. With 3 kings (you won't have this very often) bid 6NT or just bid the grand.

Here is an example ...

| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
|---------------|------------------|
| A842 | KQ763 |
| K95 | A |
| 43 | AQ872 |
| AJ52 | K4 |
| 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♠ | 4NT |
| 5♥ | 5NT |
| 6♥ | 6♠ |

Responder knows the king of diamonds is missing, so he settles for 6♠.

Usually, after 5NT and the response the 5NT bidder has enough info to place the contract. Once in awhile he may make a second ask by bidding the king in which he is interested. An example ...

| <u>Opener</u> | <u>Responder</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| AQJ963 | K1054 |
| AQ5 | K874 |
| AQ6 | K2 |
| 4 | A107 |
| 1♠ | 2NT (Jacoby) |
| 4NT | 5♥ |
| 5NT | 6♦ |
| 6♥ (asks for the ♥ king) | 7♠ (I've got it!) |

There's a lot more to it, but this will get you started on the specific king ask, known to keycard aficionados everywhere as the SKA.