

## Exploring Slam

Duplicate Lite  
Jane Youngberg



Please mute your mic when the lesson actually begins.  
To ask a question, just press and hold the space bar and we can hear you:  
Thank you

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3. Controls (explained later)  
1st or 2nd round in every suit  
Ace or Void = 1<sup>st</sup> round control  
Kx or Singleton = 2<sup>nd</sup> round control

4. If you have extras and can afford to play at the 5 level. Go ahead and ask.

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## Goal Finding a Slam

- When to explore for slam
- Gerber (for NT)
- Blackwood or Keycard (for suits)
- Cue bidding

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## Strategies for Finding Slams

### NT Contract

**Gerber:** 4 Clubs asks for Aces, followed by 5C asking for number of Kings. 4NT is quantitative asking partner to bid 6NT with any extras.

### Suit Contract

**Blackwood :** 4NT asks for number of Aces

**Key Card:** 4NT asks for Aces plus King of trump

**Strongly recommended** – do not use Gerber for a suit contract and learn Key Card

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## Four Factors to Consider for Slam Exploitation

### 1. Combined strength

- **Small Slam** 33 points
- **Grand Slam** 37 points

### 2. Fit (Greater the fit – less HCP)

- 8 card or 9 card suit
- NT (5 card suit)

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## Gerber Review

Responses to **4 Clubs**  
Ace Ask

Responses to **5 Clubs**  
King Ask

4D: Shows no Ace or 4 Aces

4H: Shows 1 Ace

4S: Shows 2 Aces

4NT: Shows 3 Aces

J 6 **HCP 14**

A K T 6 3

A T 2

K 9 5

5D : Shows no King or 4 Kings

5H: Shows 1 King

5S : Shows 2 Kings

5 NT: Shows 3 Kings

A K 3

J 4 **HCP 18**

K J 8 7 5

A Q 5

1H – 2D – 2NT – **4C**(Gerber) – 4S(2Aces)- 6NT

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## Blackwood Convention

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ♠ J 6 <b>HCP 15</b> | ♠ A K 3               |
| ♥ A K T 6 3         | ♥ Q 4 5 <b>HCP 19</b> |
| ♦ A T 2             | ♦ K Q J 8 7 5         |
| ♣ K 9 5             | ♣ A                   |

1H 2D  
 2NT 3H -  
 4H **4NT (Blackwood asking for Aces)**  
 5H (2 Aces Blackwood) - **5NT (Kings)**  
 6H (2 Kings)  
**7H!!**

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## OPENER

|                     |
|---------------------|
| ♠ A Q J 7 3         |
| ♥ A J 4 2           |
| ♦ J 6               |
| ♣ K 9 <b>HCP 16</b> |

## RESPONDER

|                     |
|---------------------|
| ♠ K 4 <b>HCP 15</b> |
| ♥ K Q T 8 7         |
| ♦ 8 3               |
| ♣ A Q J 4           |

Worried about Diamonds

Ask for aces - what if there are two - need the Diamond Ace

|                 |          |                    |          |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>N</b> OPENER | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> RESPONDER | <b>W</b> |
| 1S              | P        | 2H                 | P        |
| 3H              | P        | 4C                 | P        |
| 4H              | P        | P                  |          |

Use Controls

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## OPENER

|                     |
|---------------------|
| ♠ 8 6 <b>HCP 13</b> |
| ♥ A K T 6 3         |
| ♦ A Q T 2           |
| ♣ 9 5               |

## RESPONDER

|                     |
|---------------------|
| ♠ A K 3             |
| ♥ J 4 <b>HCP 18</b> |
| ♦ K J 8 7 5         |
| ♣ A Q 5             |

|                 |          |                    |          |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>N</b> OPENER | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> RESPONDER | <b>W</b> |
| 1H              | P        | 2D                 | P        |
| 3D              | P        | 4NT                | P        |
| 5H              | P        | 5NT                | P        |
| 6D              | P        | 6NT                |          |

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## Control Bidding Guidelines

- Best to bid controls before reaching game
- Show first round controls
  - All Aces
  - Voids but not in partner's suit
- Bid up the line (usually)
- Not in the trump suit (usually)
- **To stop the process**, bid game, jump to slam, or use Blackwood/Keycard.

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## Second Method to find Slam Possibilities

### Controls for suit Contracts

Cue bidding to show 1<sup>st</sup> round control an Ace or Void

Controls are a better strategy when

- Holding low cards in an unbid suit
- Void

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## OPENER

|                     |
|---------------------|
| ♠ A Q J 8 3         |
| ♥ A J 5             |
| ♦ K 6 <b>HCP 18</b> |
| ♣ K 8 2             |

## RESPONDER

|                      |
|----------------------|
| ♠ 10 4 <b>HCP 14</b> |
| ♥ K 8 2              |
| ♦ A Q J 10 4         |
| ♣ A 10 5             |

|                 |          |                    |          |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>N</b> OPENER | <b>E</b> | <b>S</b> RESPONDER | <b>W</b> |
| 1S              | P        | 2D                 | P        |
| 2NT             | P        | 3NT                | P        |
| 4C              | P        | 4S                 | P        |
| 5C              | P        | 5H                 | P        |
| 6NT             | P        | P                  | P        |

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|                     |   |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| <b>OPENER</b>       |   | <b>RESPONDER</b>    |   |
| ♠ A 9 8 7 3         |   | ♠ K Q <b>HCP 16</b> |   |
| ♥ Q 4 3             |   | ♥ A K 9 8 7 6 5     |   |
| ♦ A J 3             |   | ♦ 9 4 2             |   |
| ♣ Q 5 <b>HCP 13</b> |   | ♣ A                 |   |
| <b>N</b> OPENER     |   | <b>S</b> RESPONDER  |   |
| <b>E</b>            |   | <b>W</b>            |   |
| 1S                  | P | 2H                  | P |
| 3H                  | P | 4C                  | P |
| 4D                  | P | 4NT                 | P |
| 5S (2 with Q)       | P | 6H                  | P |

|                     |   |                       |   |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| <b>OPENER</b>       |   | <b>RESPONDER</b>      |   |
| ♠ A K 10 8 7 5 2    |   | ♠ Q J 3 <b>HCP 14</b> |   |
| ♥ K 4 <b>HCP 16</b> |   | ♥ Q J 8 7 6           |   |
| ♦ K Q J 4           |   | ♦ 9 7                 |   |
| ♣                   |   | ♣ A K J               |   |
| <b>N</b> OPENER     |   | <b>S</b> RESPONDER    |   |
| <b>E</b>            |   | <b>W</b>              |   |
| 1S                  | P | 2H                    | P |
| 2S                  | P | 3S                    | P |
| 4C                  | P | 4S                    | P |