

Keycard Blackwood

Keycard counts the king of trumps as an “ace”. Therefore, there are 5 “aces”. This is in response to 4NT Blackwood.

Responses to 4NT:

5C- 0 or 3 keycards

5D- 1 or 4 keycards

5H- 2 keycards without the Q of trumps

5S- 2 keycards with the Q of trumps

Responses to 5NT: (number)

6C- 0 Kings

6D- 1 King

6H- 2 kings

6S- 3 Kings

Remember since the king of trumps is counted as an “ace” there are only 3 possible kings left to have.

The trump suit is defined as follows:

- a) the suit bid and raised
- b) the suit bid and raised by implication (like Jacoby 2NT)
- c) a suit that one person has jumped
- d) if none of the previous are present, then the last suit bid

The previous bidding should make it obvious which partner has when there are 2 possibilities.

Variations: Some people reverse the 5C and 5D responses. This is called 1430. To remember that is the score for a vulnerable slam in a major. Playing this the 5C response is 0 or 4 and the

5D response is 3 or 0.

Some people also respond to 5NT with specific kings and not the number of kings. Playing this 6C would be the king of clubs, 5D is the king of diamonds but not the king of clubs, etc. With no side king you go to 6 of the trump suit.

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|-------|--------|------------------------------|
| KT954 | AQ86 | 2C (strong)-2D (waiting)- |
| T543 | A | 3D (real suit)-3S(real suit) |
| 2 | KQT973 | 4NT (keycard)-5D (1 or 4)- |
| Q75 | AK | 6S-P |

With 0 key cards partner would bid 5C and opener would sign off at 5S. With 1 keycard the bidding would be as above. With 2 keycards the opener could bid 7S. Notice that had responder had the heart king instead of the spade king slam would not be good.