

# Slam bidding after a strong 1NT bid

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Playing 2/1 many pairs bid 1NT with 15-17HCP and a balanced hand with no 5-card major.

As responder with 14-16HCP what methods do you employ to investigate slam knowing you have between 29-33HCP between your two hands?

What else do you know? We know that a NT slam frequently requires at least 33HCP and that a major or minor suit slam with an 8-card fit requires only 31/32HCP.

We also know that if (a) one makes a Quantitative 4NT bid you cannot use Stayman, (b) if we use Stayman and find a major suit fit we may use the bid of 4♣ as 1430 Roman Keycard Gerber, (c) if we use Stayman and find no major suit fit we can still use 4NT as a Quantitative bid. Now with (c) after 4NT opener has you 3-options: pass, bid 4NT or bid 5NT/6NT or (d) investigate slam in a minor by bidding 5m\* instead of 5NT if opener has 16HCP called the Kantar Adjunct Convention with more Aces and Kings than Queens and Jacks.

With 14-16 HCP and no 4-card major one may bid 4♣ as Expert Gerber.

## Review of Conventions after 1NT bid

4NT Do you have 17HCP? Opener Passes with 15, bids 5NT with 16, and bids 6NT with 17.

## Expert Gerber – 4♣ after the bid of 1NT

4♦ 1 or 4 Aces

4♥ 0 or 3 Aces

4♠ 2 Aces and 15/16HCP

4NT 2Aces and 17HCP – Note that the bid is the same as 4NT=Quantitative Bid above

## Stayman - 2♣ after 1NT

2M 4-card major --- With a major fit, responder bids 4♣ = 1430 Roman Keycard Blackwood

2♦ --- NO 4-card major, Responder next bids 4NT= Quantitative

## Opener bids after 4NT bid by Responder (Kantar Adjunct Responses)

Pass 15HCP

5m 16HCP with 4-card minor suit bid

### Responder next Bids

5NT no fit in the minor bid

6m with 4-card minor

6NT with 4-card minor and 17HCP

## Responses to 4♣ as 1430 Roman Keycard Blackwood

4♦ 1 or 4 Keycards

4♥ 0 or 3 Keycards

4♠ 2 or 5 Keycards without the Queen

4♠ 2 or 5 Keycards with the Queen

Where next step over 4♦/4♥ becomes the Queen Ask and 5♣ is the Specific King Ask.

To be more specific suppose as responder you are holding one of the following hands both having 16HCP:

(1) ♠AJ7 ♥65♦AK109 ♣KJ43 or (2) ♠AK109 ♥AJ 97 ♦KJ4 ♣65.

In (1) responder may bid 4♣ as Expert Gerber and if responder next bid 4NT, opener may pass, bid 5NT/6NT or with 16HCP and a 4-card minor bid 5m as Kantar Adjunct, but in (2) responder would bid 2♣ as Stayman. With a fit, the bid of 4♣ would be either 1430 or RKC (3014) Blackwood by agreement. Without 4-card major fit and 15HCP opener would pass, with a 4-card minor and 16HCP opener may bid 5m and with 17HCP bid 6NT.

Note (1) -Eddie Kantar (2008), "Roman Keycard Blackwood – The Final Word", Master Point Press on page 174 notes that for the 4♣ Keycard ask one use 3014 and NOT 1430 since it is the weaker hand. Why? Because the response is frequently 3-keycards and the Queen ask is at a lower next step!

If you do not have an agreement regarding who has the stronger hand, it is best to always use 1430 with suit agreement. With no agreed upon suit, use standard blackwood in most cases as discussed by Kantar in Chapter 5 pp. 55-62; the last bid suit may be used with caution – he provides strict criteria to avoid problems.

Note (2) – If 2/1 partners bid 1NT=15-17 with a 5-card major it is marked on their Convention Card as “5-Card Major Common” and often use Puppet Stayman by bidding 3♣\* to find a major suit game. Again, with No Fit they may again bid 4NT.

For more on 2/1, slam bidding and conventions suggested by the ACBL follow the links below.

Overview of 2/1

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Essentials%20of%2021.pdf>

Conventions suggested by ACBL - Review

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/commonlyusedconventions.pdf>

Jacoby 2NT and Splinters - Lesson

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Jacoby%202NT%20and%20Splinter%20Bids.pdf>

Slam Bidding for Beginners – Lesson

[www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Introduction%20to%20Slam%20Bidding%20Techniques.pdf](http://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Introduction%20to%20Slam%20Bidding%20Techniques.pdf)

Intermediate Slam Bidding Lesson

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Intermediate%20Slam%20Bidding.pdf>

Advanced Slam Bidding with Voids

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Inovative%20Slam%20Bidding.pdf>

Note (3) – How may you investigate slam if partner bids 2♦/2♥ (Jacoby Transfers) and announced as transfer to Hearts/Spades, and opener bids 3NT\* (Bell Convention) to show 3-card support or 3♥/3♠ (Super Accept) to show 4-card support with 17HCP?

To estimate the total potential tricks, recall the Short Suit Total (SST) Formula/Rule is defined as 13-SST=# of Total Tricks (TT) when two bridge hands have a High Card Total Point Count of 19-21HCP and with 22-24/25-27 you may add One/Two more tricks to the total.

Hence if responder has a void and 10HCP, the SST=2 and opener has 17HCP the total for both hands is 27HCP and the total potential tricks is 13-2=11. With slam interest Opener next bid 4♣ which becomes Weak 1430 Keycard Blackwood (WRKCB - NOT Expert Gerber). It is assumed responder has an A/K in the preempt suit, therefore the responses become step responses:

- 4♦ 1st step - 0 keycards in the preempt suit
- 4♥ 2nd step - 1 keycard without the Queen
- 4♠ 3rd step - 1 keycard with the Queen
- 4NT 4th step - 2 keycards without the Queen
- 5♣ 5th step - 2 keycards with the Queen

The only step in which the Q is unknown is the first step. The next step 4♥ becomes the Queen ask where 4♠ = No and 4NT=Yes. The Specific Suit Ask (SSA) bid are again jump bids of (5♣/5♦/5♥/5♠) or the need to find Ax/Kx/AQx NOT Axx(x) for grand slam – next step = Yes and 5NT=No except for over 5♠ where 5NT=Yes and 6NT=No.

### Example

Opener ♠K2 ♥AJ2 ♦AJ6542 ♣A7

Responder ♠A7 ♥KQ9876 ♦7 ♣345

<b>Opener</b>	<b>Responder</b>
1NT	2♦ (Jacoby - announced)
2NT* Bell	4♣ (WRKCB)
4♦ 1 w/o Q	5♦ (SSA for Diamonds - Jump bid since 4♥ would be Queen Ask)
5NT NO	6♥
Pass	Pass