

Using Spiral Scan Bids with Jacoby 2NT

By Neil H. Timm

Spiral Scan bids were developed by **George Rosenkranz** and are an extension of 1430. When partner has the Queen of trump, one usually bids 5NT (the specific kings ask) if one is interested in a grand slam. This is a terrible waste of space. Instead he recommended using his Spiral Scan bids recently reviewed in the August 2014 issue of the "Bridge Bulletin" to find out about kings, queens and even jacks.

While his approach has merit and is most effective playing kickback/redwood, I recommend that it be used to investigate a slam after one bids a major (1♥/1♠) and partner responds with the Jacoby bid of 2NT which shows 4+card trump support and 13+ support/dummy points.

After the bid of 2NT, playing Jacoby one usually shows a singleton or void; however, bridge experts have modified the responses. Following their lead, I am recommending that the bid of 2NT be a 1430 asking bid which must be alerted and explained as a 1430 keycard ask, if asked.

One may use Spiral Scan Bits instead of the Scroll Bids I discussed under the Bridge Bit "Slam Bidding".

The responses to the 1430 Roman Keycard bid of 2NT are:

3♣ = 1 or 4 Key Cards

3♦ = 0 or 3 Key Cards

3♥ = 2 or 5 Key Cards without the Queen of Trump

3♠ = 2 or 5 Key Cards with the Queen of Trump or holding a 6th Trump

Voids (with 3/4 card trump support and 13+ dummy/support points)

3NT = 2 or 4 an even number of Key Cards with a void somewhere (♣/♦/major not bid)

4♣/4♦ = void in suit bid (below trump suit) and an odd number key cards (1/3) when ♠/♥ are trump

4♥ = void in hearts and an odd number of key cards (1/3) if spades are trump

4♥ trump suit = odd number of key cards (1/3) with a void in spades when hearts are trump

After the bid of 3♣/3♦, the bids: 3♦/3♥ (the next step up) is the Queen ask bid, which begins the Spiral Scan.

Now logic dictates the features of the Spiral Scan.

- 1) Trump Queen
- 2) Kings in ascending order (♣/♦/other major)
- 3) Queens in ascending order (♣/♦/other major)
- 4) Side jacks, if ever in same order.

Hence the Scan order is:

Trump Queen, ♣K, ♦K, Other Major Trump K, ♣Q, ♦Q, Other Major Trump Q, ♣J, ♦J, ♥J, ♠J.

Bidding the first step after the ask, denies the Queen.

By bypassing the first step and bidding the second, shows the Queen and no ♣K; and so on.

Let's look at an example of the Spiral Scan.

North	South
1♠	2NT
3♣/3♦	3♦/3♥ (Queen ask)
???	

In this example, following the 3♣/3♦ bids (showing 1/4 or 0/3 key cards) the next step bids of 3♦/3♥ would be the Queen ASK.

Step one:	No ♠ Queen.
Step two:	♠Q but no ♣K
Step three:	♠Q and ♣K, but no ♦K
Step four:	♠Q, and ♣K, ♦K, but no ♥K

Possessing the trump Queen, the 1430 bidder may go through the Queen asks in order to create a third-round control query; however, with the Queen, the Scan asks begins. If asks take the partnership beyond the four of the trump suit, inquirer must be interested in a slam/grand slam.

Let's look at another example where the Queen asks step is bypassed!

North	South
1♠	2NT
3♣(1/4 key cards)	3♠

Do you have the ♦K (second step)? Note that the bid of 3♦ would be the Queen asks and that 3♥ (first step) asks for the king of clubs since the priorities are ♣K, ♦K, ♥K, etc.

3NT (1st step after ask)	no ♦K
4♣ (2nd step)	♦K, but no ♥K
4♦ (3rd step)	♦K and ♥K, but no ♣K
4♥ (4 th step)	♦K, ♥K, ♣K, but no ♣Q – and so on.

If the Queen asks step is bypassed, since the 1430 bidder has the Queen. The bids (in steps) after the Queen ask bid are specific king/queen asking bids. For example, suppose spades is the trump suit, and then the bids for the king/queen are:

3♦	Asks for the ♠Q; the Queen Ask after the bid of 3♣.
3♥	Asks for the ♣K
3♠	Asks for the ♦K
3NT	Asks for the ♥K
4♣	Asks for the ♣Q
4♦	Asks for the ♦Q
4♥	Asks for the ♥Q
4♠	Sign-Off
4NT	Asks for ♣J

The responder rebids by counting steps. If he/she bids the next step up, the responder denies holding the card asked for. If the responder bids the second step, the responder shows the card asked for, but denies higher cards. Using the Spiral Scan, the partnership can concentrate on the most valuable Keycards and the location thereof. The concept behind the Spiral Scan is the continuance of the auction until at least a

small slam is reached. If one or several Keycards are discovered to be missing, then the small slam is the better contract, but if all the Keycards are accounted for during the auction, then the grand slam can be bid.

One more example, North and South hold the following cards.

North	South
♠AJ643	♠KQ75
♥KQ2	♥A7
♦3	♦A105
♣KQ72	♣AJ43

Where the order for the bids is: ♣K, ♦K, ♥K, ♣Q, ♦Q, ♥Q, ♣J after the bid of 1♠.

North	South
1♠	2NT (1)
3♣(2)	3♥(3)
3NT (4)	4♣(5)
4♠(6)	4NT (7)
5♦(8)	7NT

- (1) Jacoby 2NT forcing spade raise with 4 trumps
- (2) 1430 RKCB (1/4 keycards)
- (3) The first step (3♥) is asking about ♣K (4♠ would be to play)
- (4) The first step (3NT) shows ♣K, but not the ♦K
- (5) The next step (4♣) is asking for the ♥K
- (6) 4♠ says I have ♥K and the ♣Q, since the step of 4♥ was skipped
- (7) 4NT do you have the ♥Q
- (8) 5♦ says yes, since 5♣ step was skipped

Spiral scan bids are most useful when the partnership is known to have the Queen of trumps. However, even if you have the Queen you may have to ask in order to create a third round control query. To complete our discussion on the Spiral Scan bids, I will now briefly discuss the difficult topic of voids.

Spiral Bids with an even number of Key Cards and a void

Over the bid of 3NT, 4♣ (the next step **is not the queen ask**) It asks where is your void?

If hearts are trump then 4♦/4♠/4NT show voids in diamonds/spades/clubs.

If spades are trump then 4♦/4♥/4NT shows voids in diamonds, hearts/clubs.

The next step bid, after the void response, now becomes the QUEEN ASK. As discussed above, the first step denies the Queen; however the void suit honor is excluded from the spiral scan hierarchy.

Spiral Bids with an odd number of Key Cards and a void

With an odd number of key cards, the next step by the asker, excluding the trump suit (sign-off) becomes the QUEEN ASK. Where again the first step response again denies the Queen.

Because the void suit is unknown with an odd number of key cards, a jump to six level of lower ranking suit shows the void in the suit bid (6♣/6♦/6♥) with the Queen of spades are trump.

If hearts are trumps, the bids of 6♣ and 6♦ are again used to show the Queen of trumps with a void in the bid 6-level suit. With a void in spades, one bids 6♥ to show the Queen and the spade void.

Note also that the Spiral scan can begin with a 2/1 bid: 1M-2m-2M -2NT (1430)/3M (inv); or, if we have 1M-2♣-2♦-2M-2NT.

Or you may use 1430 RKCB, if you do not like the Scan bids. Too complicated! Then use the following 1430 bids.

1430 - Over 2NT for Majors

The responses to the 1430 Roman Keycard bid of 2NT with 4-card support for the Major

3♣ = 1 or 4 Key Cards

3♦ = 0 or 3 Key Cards

3♥ = 2 or 5 Key Cards without the Queen of Trump

3♠ = 2 or 5 Key Cards with the Queen of Trump or holding a 6th Trump

QUEEN ASK – Next step 3♦ After 3♣ OR 3♥ After 3♦

After 3♦ (Trump Queen Ask) - one answers as follows

Hearts Trump

3♥ - NO Queen of Trump – (1st step)

3♠ - Specific King Ask (Next Step)

Cheapest King = 4♣/4♦/4♥/3NT = K♠

(May try second King ask)

4♠ = Non -Trump Queen Ask

Cheapest Queen = 5♣/5♦/4NT = Q♠

3♠ = Q♥ but NO KINGS (2nd step)

3NT = Specific Non-Trump Queen Ask (Next Step)

Cheapest Queen = 4♣/4♦/4♠

(May try second Queen Ask)

4♥ - Sign-off = NONE

3NT = Q♥ and ♠K

4♣/4♦/4♥ = Q♥ and King of bid Suit (K♣/K♦/K♥)

(May try second King Ask)

Spades Trump

3♥ = NO Queen of Trump – (1st step)

3♠ = Specific King Ask (Next Step)

Cheapest King 4♣/4♦/4♥/3NT=♠K

(May try second king ask)

4NT= Non -Trump Queen Ask

Cheapest Queen = 5♣/5♦/5NT=Q♥

3♠ = Q♠ but NO KINGS (2nd step)

3NT = Specific Non-Trump Queen Ask (Next Step)

Cheapest Queen 4♣/4♦/4♥

(May try second Queen Ask)

4♠ - Sign-off = NONE

4♣/4♦/4♥ = Q♠ and King of bid Suit (K♣/K♦/K♥)

(May try second King Ask)

4♠=Q♠ and ♠K

After 3♥ (Queen Ask) - one bids as follows

Hearts

3♠ = NO Queen of Trump – (1st step)

3NT=Specific King Ask

Cheapest King = 4♣/4♦/4♥/4♠

(May try second King Ask)

4NT= Non -Trump Queen Ask

Cheapest Queen = 5♣/5♦/5♥=Q♠

(May try second Queen Ask)

3NT = Q♥ but NO KINGS (2nd step)

4♣= Specific Non-Trump Queen Ask (Next Step)

Cheapest Queen = 4♦/4♠/4NT = Q♣

(May try second Queen ask)

4♥ - Sign-off = NONE

4♣/4♦/4♥/4♠ = Q♥ and King of bid suit

(May try second King Ask)

Spades

3♠ - NO Queen of Trump – (first step)

3NT=Specific King Ask

Cheapest King = 4♣/4♦/4♥/4♠

(May try second king ask)

4NT = Non-Trump Queen Ask

Cheapest Queen = 5♣/5♦/5♥

3NT = Q♠ but NO KINGS (2nd step)

4♣ = Specific Queen Ask (Next Step)

Cheapest Queen 4♦/4♠/4NT = Q♣

(May also try second Queen ask)

4♠ - Sign-off = NONE

4♣/4♦/4♥/4♠ = Q♠ and King of bid suit

(May try second King Ask)

Voids

Used ONLY after Sign-Off in Major 4♥/4♠

5♣/5♦/5♥ Void in bid Suit

4♠=Void in Spades if Hearts are Trump

Still too complicated try the following simple version.

Simple 1430 - Over 2NT for Majors

The responses to the 1430 Roman Keycard bid of 2NT are:

3♣ = 1 or 4 Key Cards

3♦ = 0 or 3 Key Cards

3♥ = 2 or 5 Key Cards without the Queen of Trump

3♠ = 2 or 5 Key Cards with the Queen of Trump or holding a 6th Trump

Queen ASK

After the bid of 3♣/3♦, the bids: 3♦/3♥ (the next step up) is the Queen ask bid.

After 3♦ (Queen Ask) - one bids as follows.

3♥/3♠ - NO Queen – bid the Major

3NT = Queen but NO KINGS

4♥/4♠ = Queen of major bid, and unknown KING

4♣/4♦ = Queen and bid King

After 3♥ (Queen Ask) - one bids as follows.

3♠/4♥ - NO Queen – bid the Major

3NT = Queen but NO KINGS

4♣/4♦ = Queen and bid King

4NT = Specific King Ask

Voids (with 3/4 card trump support and 13+ dummy/support points)

3NT = 2 or 4 an even number of Key Cards with a void somewhere (♣/♦/major not bid)

4♣/4♦ = void in suit bid (below trump suit) and an odd number key cards (1/3) when ♠/♥ are trump

4♥ = void in hearts and an odd number of key cards (1/3) if spades are trump

4♥ trump suit = odd number of key cards (1/3) with a void in spades when hearts are trump