KICKBACK
A Better Use Of KCB

Almost everyone uses Key Card Blackwood, and most pairs respond by using 1430, to show key cards. In 1430, the responses to 4NT are as follows:

5 Clubs, 1 or 4 Key Cards (The Key Cards are aces and the king of trump).
5 Diamonds, 0 or 3 Key Cards
5 Hearts. 2 Key Cards
5 Spades 2 Key Cards with the Queen of trump.

This works well when spades are trump, and pretty well when hearts are trump. But when you are in a minor, it is easy to get in trouble. Take this hand. You are South.

K J	You open 1 club, partner bids 1 heart, and you bid two clubs. Partner
K Q J 9 5	is headed for a grand slam or at least 6 clubs, and bids 4 NT. You bid
A	5 diamonds, showing 0 or three. You are too high. Down one.
A K 7 6 5	
	If you play kickback, once a suit is established, Blackwood is introduced
	by bidding the suit above the trump suit, at the four level. You
Q	respond 4 spades, the same second step, showing 0 or 3, and partner
7 6	can stop in 5 Clubs. Making five if they cash their aces.
K Q J 10 2	Partner would have initiated Key Card by bidding 4 diamonds.
K J 10 9 3 2	

This is only one of the uses of Kickback. It is also useful because it keeps the bidding low, and gives you an opportunity to find out more about partner's hand. You can find out about the queen of trump, and find out which kings partner holds, not just how many kings.

Once partner has asked for aces, and you have responded, if he wants to find out which kings you hold, he repeats the kickback suit, and you will bid your cheapest king. If he wants to know about another king, he will ask by bidding that suit, and you can show it by bidding anything but the trump suit. You will get to the right contract. Bid NT to show the K of the kick back suit.

Partner can also ask for the Queen of trump, by bidding at the level above your response to his king ask bid. If you have the queen you can show it by bidding y9our cheapest king, or if you do not have a king, by jumping to slam. Try these hands.

	SOUTH	NORTH
A Q J 5 4 2	1 Club	1 Spade
5	3 Clubs	4 Diamonds. Key Card
6	4 Spades- 0 or 3	5 Diamonds- King Ask
K Q J 8 6	5 Spades K of Spades	7 Clubs

K
A 5 4 3
A 4
A 10 9 8 7 5 2

Partner knows that you have the king of spades, but not the king of hearts. He can count 13 tricks. If you had bid 4 hearts, he could have asked for the king of spades by bidding 4 spades. If he knew that you were missing the king of spades, he would have stopped at six clubs. You have bid a cold grand slam with a combined holding of 28 HCP, and could have done it without the queen of clubs and probably without the jack of spades.

Remember, when showing the King of the kickback suit, you bid No Trump.

	SOUTH	NORTH
A K Q 5 4 2	1 Club	1 Spade
5	3 Clubs	4 Diamonds -Key Card
6 2	4Spades 0 or 3	4 NT - Queen Ask Next highest
K J 8 6	5 NT Queen and the	7 Clubs

3
A 5 4 3
A K
A Q 9 8 7 5 2

King of Diamonds, no king of hearts

Again, North can count 13 tricks. If South had bid 4 hearts, he could have asked for the king of diamonds by bidding 4 NT, in which case South would bid 5 clubs, to deny it, and he would have bid 7 clubs, but if South had the king of Diamonds, he would jump to 6 clubs, and north will bid 7 no trump, counting 13 top tricks.

JORDAN AND FLIP FLOP

While these these bids do not come up very often, they are very important. Look on the back of your convention card right hand side, middle, in the block that says OVER OPP'S T/O DOUBLE.

Most players play that a new suit is forcing at the one level, and a jump/shift is weak. Many players play that a new suit at the 2 level (not a jump) is non-forcing, non-invitational.

To show a really good hand, partner will redouble, showing 11 or more points.
A redouble denies a fit in partner's suit. Most experienced players use a jump in partner's major to show a weak hand, less than a limit raise, and four or more trump. This is where Jordan comes in. After a double of partner's major, a jump to two no trump shows a limit raise, in HCPs and usable shortness, and usually 4 card support, although some players make this bid with a three card fit. You are not worried about "wrongsiding" the hand, because no trump will be played by the weaker hand, because the contract will be played in partner's major, not in no trump.

Partner opens 1 spade, and LHO doubles. It is your bid:

4 A Q 9 4 K J 7 3 Q 10 5 4   Redouble, They are in trouble. You are going to double whatever they bid.

4 2 K Q J 8 7 5 4 Q 2 4 3   2 hearts is non forcing, showing a good suit, and asking partner to pass with a minimum, and no place to go. You did not redouble, so you should have no more than 10 HCPs. You and partner must be on the same page about these bids.

6 5 4 2 8 Q 4 3 2 5 4 3 2   Three spades, weak. Use up as much room as you can, to make it hard for them to find the right contract.

6 5 4 2 8 K Q J 4 Q 10 4 3   If they had passed, would you have made a limit raise with this hand? If so, bid 2NT, a limit raise in spades.

Q 5 4 2 8 K Q J 4 Q 10 4 3   You certainly would have made a limit raise with this hand. Bid 2 NT.

Partner opens 1 club and LHO doubles. It is your bid.

Q 10 8 7 5 4 8 9 8 7 3 3 2   Bid two spades, weak, preemptive, blocking.

K Q 10 9 5 K 2 8 7 J 4 3 2   Bid one spade, forcing one round, showing a pretty good hand, but not enough to redouble.

FLIPFLOP JORDAN

When partner open a minor, and you have a good fit, the dynamic changes. If the opponent doubles most players play flip flop, exchanging the meaning of the jump, and the two no trump bid. Two no trump now becomes preemptive, and a jump shows a limit raise. This way the opener, the presumably stronger hand, can bid no trump. Again, you will not wrong side the hand. It is not going to play in no trump if you are weak. Partner open a diamond, and LHO doubles. You hold:

4 5 4 3 10 9 8 7 6 4 K 10 4 2 Bid two no trump, preemptive. Unless he has a super strong hand, partner will retreat to three diamonds, or with some shortness, might bid 4 or 5 diamonds. They probably can make four of a major.

4 2   5 3   K Q 10 9 6   A Q 8 7 Bid three diamonds, a limit raise. Partner will know what to do.