

## ♣♦♥♠ Slam Bidding ♣♦♥♠

*There is an excellent series of 3 articles on RKCB by Kay Joyce starting in the October 2018 Unit Bulletin I refer everybody to.*

Blackwood

Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKCB)

Queen ask

King ask

Gerber

## ♣♦♥♠ Blackwood refresher ♣♦♥♠

- 4NT asks for Aces
  - Responder bids in steps showing the number of Aces
  - 5♣ = zero
  - 5♦ = 1
  - 5♥ = 2
  - 5♠ = 3
- 5N asks for number of kings
  - 6♣ = zero, 6♦ = 1 etc, etc

Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKCB)

I will refer to the 1430 style not the 0314 style.

- 4NT asks for Keycards - there are 5 including the K of trump

- Responder bids in steps showing the number of keycards
- 5♣ = 1 or 4
- 5♦ = 0 or 3
- 5♥ = 2 (or 5) without the Queen of trump
- 5♠ = 2 (or 5) with the Queen of trump

♣♦♥♠ What's your bid (♠ are trump) ♣♦♥♠

	A	B	C	D	E	D
♠	Kxxx	QJxx	xxxx	Jxxxxx	Kxx	Qxx
♥	AJxx	AJx	Axx	Ax	AJx	Kxx
♦	QJxx	Qxx	Qxxx	Ax	xx	Kxxx
♣	x	Axx	Jxx	xxx	Axxxx	Kxxx

Partner bids 5♦ showing zero or 3. If your partner has 3 then slam is on, if zero you need to stop in 5♠. **What do you bid?**

Bidding

A	B
1♠ - 2N (J2N)	1N - 2♥ (trfr)
4♠ - 4N	2♠ - 4N
5♦ - 5♠	5♦ - 5♠
P passes with zero	6♠ bids to slam with 3

## The Queen ask - responses showing specific kings

- The RKCB asker makes a **single** step bid (not trump) over the Keycard response!
  - This asks whether partner has the Q of trump.
- If partner has the Q and no other K they make a **jump** to slam

Both of these bidding sequences ask for the Q (spades are trump)

1♠ - 2N (J2N)

1N - 2♥ (trfr)

4♠ - 4N

2♠ - 4N

5♦ - 5♥\* **Q ask**

5♣ - 5♦\* - **Q ask**

5♠        denies Q

6♠\*        has Q denies holding any Kings

It can get tricky when ♥ are trump

A

1N - 2♦ (trfr)

2♥ - 4N

5♣ - 5♦\* - **Q ask**

6♥\*        has Q denies holding any Kings

B

2N - 3♦

3♥ - 4N

5♦ - 5♠\* **Q ask**

7♥        jumps past 6!

Example hand for keycard asker

A

♠ Ax

♥ AKxxx

♦ KJxx

♣ Kx

B

Kx

AKJTxxx

KJ

xx

♣♦♥♠ The Queen ask with specific kings ♣♦♥♠

When bidding slam it's important to know which Kings partner holds, so holding the Q and one or two kings - bid up the line! Again there's a twist when ♥ are trump

If partner is interested in another king he can ask again below slam or the agreed suit.

Holding all 3 missing kings (trump K is counted in first set of bids) bid 6Nt!

Let's take the case of responding with one king (♠ are trump)

4N - 5♣ 1 or 4

5♦\* - 6♣\*\* \* Q ask, \*\* I have Q plus K♣

6♠

When ♥s are trump

2♣ - 2♦ // 2♥ - 2♠ // 3♥ - 4♥

4N - 5♦ 0 or 3

5♠\* - 5N\*\* \*Q ask \*\* I have Q + K♠

7N

**Example Asker**

♠ Ax

♥ AKJxxxx

♦ AK

♣ AK

**Responder**

Kx

Qxx

Qxx

xx

The asker **asks** (not tells) when asking about 2 kings (spades trump)

A  
 1♠ - 4N  
 5♥ - 5N K ask  
 6♣\* - 6♦\*\* \*\* specific ♦K ask  
 7♠

B  
 1♠ - 4N  
 5♣ - 5♥\* \*King ask! (5♦ is Q ask)  
 6♦\* - 6♠ \* K dias

Responders hand

A (13 hcp)  
 ♠ AKxxx  
 ♥ xxx  
 ♦ Kx  
 ♣ Kx

B (12 hcp)  
 AJxxx  
 Qxx  
 KQx  
 xx

Hearts as trump

A  
 1N - 2♦ (trfr)  
 3♥\* - 4N \*super accept  
 5♣\* - 5♠\*\* \* 1 or 4, \*\* K ask  
 5N\* - 6♣\*\* \* K spades \*\*♣K ask  
 6♠\* - P \*denies ♣K

B  
 1♥ - 4N  
 5♣\* - 5♠\*\* \* 1 or 4, \*\* K ask  
 5N\* - 6♣\*\* \*♠ king, \*\*K♣ ask  
 7♥! - 7N

Example hands

A opener  
 ♠ Kxx  
 ♥ AJxx  
 ♦ KQxx  
 ♣ Qxx

A responder  
 Axx  
 KQxxx  
 A  
 Axx

B opener  
 Kx  
 Axxxx  
 Qxx  
 Kx

B  
 AQx  
 KQxxx  
 AK  
 Ax

## ♣♦♥♠Gerber♣♦♥♠

Always on over 1N and 2N opening. Partnership agreement required for other situations

1N-4♣ asks for aces only

- 4♦ = 0
- 4♥ = 1
- 4♠ = 2
- 4N = 3

Some modern methods use 1430 responses over the last bid suit or 1430 with strength showing e.g

- 4♦ = 1 or 4
- 4♥ = 0 or 3
- 4♠ = 2 bottom of hcp range
- 4N = 2 top of hcp range