

## TIP OF THE WEEK: FOURTH SUIT FORCING and GAMBLING 3NT

### Fourth Suit Forcing

After a partnership has bid three suits, it is unlikely that the fourth suit is the best fit. Therefore, you can play a bid of the **fourth suit** as an **artificial force**, asking partner to describe his hand further.

1C - 1D

1H - **1S** is natural and the majority of bridge players consider it **non-forcing**.

**Fourth Suit Forcing** is initiated at the **2-level**. **Responder** promises **opening values**, and most partnerships play the fourth suit as **forcing to game**.

1C - 1D

1S - **2H**

A **jump** in the **fourth suit** shows a **5-5 hand** and is **strongly invitational**.

#### Fourth-suit forcing is not used ...

- |   |
|---|
| . if one partner is previously a passed hand  |
| . after a 2/1 response                        |
| . when the opponents intervene in the bidding |

#### Opener responds to the fourth suit by ...

- |  |
|--|
| . raising responder's first suit with 3-card support               |
| . bidding NT with values in the fourth suit                        |
| . raising the fourth suit with 4 cards in that suit                |
| . making the most natural rebid possible, lacking any of the above |

Larry Cohen and Barbara Seagrams explain Fourth Suit Forcing in the following articles...

<https://barbaraseagram.com/pdf/FOURTH-SUIT-FORCING-Mini-handout.pdf>

[www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center/detail/550](http://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center/detail/550)

## Bajir and Graeme

StreamYard

# Fourth Suit Forcing

Hand 1, Vul Nil

West	North	East	Player
	1♥	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	

♠ A Q 7 4 3    ♥ K 2    ♣ A J 7    ♦ J 7 6

< 7♠ 7NT Pass 2♦ 2♥ >

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<https://youtu.be/BZV7RB58Q7Q>

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# Fourth suit forcing

Hand 1, Vul Nil

West	North	East	graeme
	1♠	P	2♥
P	3♣	P	

♠ A K    ♥ A K T 8 3    ♣ Q 8 2    ♦ J 6 3

< 7♠ 7NT Pass 3♦ 3♥ >

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<https://youtu.be/zmJL676RPD8>

## Barbara Seagrams

**OPENING BIDDER'S OBLIGATIONS AFTER FOURTH SUIT FORCING**  
**First obligation:**


- With 3 of partner's major, opener must now raise partner's suit (NO JUMPING REQUIRED)

WEST

♠ AKxx			
♥ Qxx	1C		1H
♦ xx	1S		2D
♣ QJxx			

Now you show your 3 card support for H and bid 2H

West	East
1C	1H
1S	2D*
2H	



<https://youtu.be/A4KD2ZJYQGg>

## Rob Barrington



<https://youtu.be/w5r6FRrePCyc>

## Advanced Learners ---> Gambling 3NT

**Gambling 3NT**, is an artificial opening bid which promises a long, **solid running minor** suit (7+ headed by at least the A,K,Q, J ), and **no** outside King or Ace.

[Q73 7 75 AKQJ654]

A one minor opening bid and then a jump rebid to 3NT is a gambling hand plus one outside trick (A or K).

**Gambling 3NT Bids are....**

Preemptive - They makes it difficult for the opponents to either find the right suit or the right level.
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Gambling - If partner has adequate support, you might make 3NT.
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Descriptive - They tell your partner precisely what you hold.
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The only **disadvantage** of playing this convention, is that the contract is often played from the wrong side, thus missing the advantage of the opening lead.

**Bridget Rampton**



<https://youtu.be/QpSFZe3N1v0>

D. Rayner



<https://youtu.be/oGso3BzM4YU>

### Responses to a Gambling 3NT Bid

Source: [bridgewebs.com](http://bridgewebs.com))

**Please note there are other variations**

**Pass** --> Responder knows that partner has a sure source of 7 tricks, and he have all the side suits stopped.

(A73 A952 A963 53)

**Bid 4C** --> Responder would rather play in their partner's minor. Opener passes or corrects to 4D.

(AKT76 T3 QJ963 5)

**Bid 4H/S** -> Natural with a long, good suit to play (6+ suit). Opener must pass.

(J83 AKJT9762 T 5)

**Bid 5C** --> Responder has game values in the minors, with no interest in playing 3NT. Opener passes or corrects to 5D.

**Bid 4NT** --> Responder is Not asking for Aces. This bid asks partner if he has extra length in the suit. It says, 'Partner, we have 11 tricks, assuming you have 7, but if you have 8, I want to play in a small slam'.

**5NT** --> Asks partner to bid the Grand Slam if he has an extra card.

**Bid 4D** --> (Alert) This is a Forcing bid by Responder, asking for shortness.  
(Slam inquiry)  
(A QJ52 AKQJ 8753)

Opener's Reply:

**4H/S** = singleton or void in Hearts or Spades

**4NT** = No shortness (7-2-2-2)

**5C/D** = this is my suit, i.e. shortage is in the minor I didn't bid

### Defense Against the Gambling 3NT

**Double** --> Suggests Penalty if opponents return to 4 of their minor

**4H/S** --> To Play

Click on the link below, to discover Andrew Gumperz's suggested defense to Gambling 3NT.

[Defending a 3NT Opening - Bridge Winners](https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/defending-...)

<https://bridgewinners.com> › [article](#) › [view](#) › [defending-...](#)

If 3NT is passed out, start by leading an Ace. This allows you to see the dummy.

### Gambling 3NT in Competition

- . If the opponents double 3NT for Penalty, Responder may bid 4C as a runout bid, asking opener to pass or correct to 4D.
- . If the opponents overcall, a 4NT bid by Responder is natural.