



"Let's Discuss That Later Pard"



- Partnership discussions
- Slam Evaluation
- When You Shouldn't Use Blackwood or RKC
- Alternative Options:
 - Control Bids
 - Minorwood
 - Kickback
 - Exclusion Blackwood
 - Grand Slam Force
- Brief Quiz





- Differs From Game Evaluation
- More Weight Is Given To Controls (Aces, Kings, Voids, Singletons)
- "Quacks" (Queens and Jacks) Are Of Much Less Value
- Vital For Slam Bidding:
 - Trumps
 - Tricks
 - Controls

Consider Two Hands:



Hand One:

♦AJ53, **♥**AK4, **♦**73, **♣**A1092

Hand Two:

♠QJ53, ♥AQ4, **♦**QJ, **♣**KJ32

Same shape and point count



Fit Is More Important In Slam Bidding



As North you pick up:

♦AQJ732, **♥**4, **♦**KJ8, **♣**A96

Auction 1:

1♠ **2**♦

2**A** 3**A**

Auction 2:

1**♠** 2♥

24 34

Which Auction makes North excited about slam??

JOXIER CONTRACTOR

Hands Partner Might Hold



Hand One:

♦K10, ♥A63, ♦AQ952, **♣**542

Hand Two:

★K10, **♥**AQ952, **♦**A63, **♣**542

North has:

♦AQJ732, **♥**4, **♦**KJ8, **♣**A96



Features that Increase Trick Taking Potential



Double Fits

- Nine and (especially!) Ten Card Trump Fits
- Solid Suits (AKQJX)
- Well Placed Shortness
 - Partners Values Aren't Wasted



Summary



Balanced No Trump hand HCP requirements:

- 35-37 HCP for Grand Slam
- 31-33 HCP for Small Slam

- Finding a Trump Fit Is A Starting Place
- Once You Think You Are In A Slam Zone,
 Check For What You Want To Know

Two Types That Don't Work With Knowing Number of Key Cards

1. Voids

You open 1 ♠ with the following hand:

♦AKJ7642, --, **♦**K32, **♣**KQ3

1. Suits Off 2 Quick Tricks



Cue Bidding



Slam Cue Bidding Is "Control Bidding"

- Control
 - Opponents cannot take the first two tricks in that suit
 - Use when we have agreed on a trump suit and are moving toward a slam
 - Old Style: cue 1 round controls first, then 2 -round controls
 - Modern Style: Cuebid cheapest control, check for aces with Key Card or Blackwood

Example



♠AKJ7642, **♥**AKQ, **♦**32, **♣**3

- Opponents Cannot Cash Two A Tricks
- Partner Can Tell If He Has The Next Higher Ranking Control So He Will Bid It Or Sign Off

Good Rule Of Thumb



- Below 3 Of Your Major, There Are "No" Control Bids (exception: after Jacoby 2NT)
- First Find A Fit
- Confirm
- Any New Suit Is A Control Bid

Not a Control Bid:

1♠, Pass, 2♠, Pass 3♣

Is a Control Bid:

1♠, Pass, 2♠, Pass,

4 •

Shows ♦ control & denies a ♣ control

STEPS



- Bid Controls Cheapest first (or "In Order") Up The Line
- Skipping A Suit Denies First or Second Round Control
- If partner skips a suit where you have no control, sign off!
- Controls In The Trump Suit Are Never Shown (RKC)
- Bidding Game in the Trump Suit Is A "Sign Off" Saying You Have Nothing Else To Show (or saying that a suit has no control)



Example



West:

- **▲**AJ109864
- **y**9
- ♦ KQJ
- ♣AQ2

East:

- **♠**K752
- **♥**752
- ♦A84
- ♣KJ9

Auction using cue bids goes like this:

West:

- 1 🚓
- 4 **♣** (**♣** control)
- 4 NT (Key card

ask)

6 ♠ (Final

Contract)

East:

- 3 ♠ (4-card limit raise)
- 4 ◆ (◆ control)
- 5 ♥ (2 Key cards, no ♠Q)

What is 5NT?



- Old Days: "Grand Slam Force"
- Modern: "Choice of Slams"
- After 4NT Key Card:
 - Number of kings (0, 1, 2, 3); DON'T
 count the king of trump
 - Specific Kings (bid cheapest king you have, else return to trump suit)

Alternatives to Control Bids

Minorwood

 Minor suit agreed upon, a 4 bid of the minor suit becomes the Ace-asking call (as in RKC)

Gerber

- Used over an Opening 1NT or 2NT
- Rare! Avoid!

Kickback

Ace asking bid is kicked back one suit (4 is RKC for hearts)

Exclusion Blackwood

 "P, I have a void in this suit. Show me your key cards, but NOT the ones in this suit"





- Interference
 - With interference over 4NT, you can employ DIP0 or DEP0
- DIP0: X=1 or 4 keycards; P=3 or 0
- DEP0: X=even number; P=odd number





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- 4. Are control bids used at the 3 level?

Quiz



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- 5. Do you and your partner show specific kings, or how many kings?

Quiz



- 1. When should you not use 4NT as an asking bid?
- 2. What should you use instead?
- 3. Is a cuebid the same as a control bid?
- 4. Are control bids used at the 3 level?
- 5. Do you and your partner show specific kings, or how many kings?
- 6. Name three components needed for slam.



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Additional resources may be found at ACBL