



Presents:

1430 Key Card Blackwood

I 430 Key Card Blackwood

Is an excellent tool for investigating slam **after our side agrees on a trump suit.**

Let's review the auction on this hand:

1. 2 Hearts was **game forcing** (2 over 1)
2. 3 Spades **established the trump suit.**
3. 4 Clubs showed **1st round control** in the club suit (an Ace or a Void)

At this point in the auction, we really need to determine the quality of our trump suit to judge slam possibilities. Luckily I 430 Key Card is designed for this purpose.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, a table displays the auction for four players: WEST, NORTH, EAST, and scubapro. The auction is as follows:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	

Below the auction table, the hand for player 'scubapro' is shown. The hand consists of the following cards from left to right: J♠, 10♠, 8♠, A♥, Q♥, J♥, 3♥, 2♥, J♣, A♦, K♦, 9♦, 8♦. The suit indicator 'S' and the name 'scubapro' are visible at the bottom left of the hand display, and the number '7' is at the bottom right.

LearnBridge.nyc tip:

Before we can begin to show **controls**, we must be in a game forcing auction **and** have an agreed upon trump suit.

The Basics:

After we agree on a trump suit we can bid **4 No – Trump** to ask our partner how many key cards she has.

There are **5 Key Cards** our side can possibly have. They are as follows:

- The Ace of Spades
- The Ace of Hearts
- The Ace of Diamonds
- The Ace of Clubs
- **The King or our agreed upon trump suit**

The Responses to 4NT:

5 C = 1 or 4 Key Cards (**14**)

5 D = 3 or 0 Key Cards (**30**)

5 H = 2 Key Cards **without** the Queen

5 S = 2 Key Cards **with** the Queen

Note: 5H and 5S give us information about the Queen of our trump suit.

The Queen is **NOT** a key card.

Hint: Use the bidding box for help. Go from **right to left**:
“**14 - 30 - 2 without - 2 with**”

2 with	2 w/o	30	14
			

Back to our hand: Our partner has responded to our 4NT bid with 5 spades. This shows 2 key cards **with** the Queen of trumps.

We have 2 key cards in our hand so our side has a total of 4 key cards and the Queen of our trump suit.

Can we play slam?

Key Card Requirements for Slam:

- When we have all 5 key cards we can bid **at least** a small slam.
- When we have 4 key cards **and** the Queen of trumps we can bid a small slam (6 Level).
- We should **NOT** bid slams without at least 4 key cards **and** the Queen.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	

J♠	10♠	8♠	A♥	Q♥	J♥	3♥	2♥	J♣	A♦	K♦	9♦	8♦	7♦
S	scubapro												7

So with 4 key cards and the Queen of trumps we can play our **small slam** by bidding 6 Spades.

Here is the full deal:

We have bid a nice small slam with an excellent chance of success.

We can see how important the Queen of trumps is on this hand. If we take that card away from the North hand our chances of success drop dramatically.

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface with the following details:

- Bidding Board:** A table with columns for WEST, NORTH, and EAST. The bidding sequence is: WEST 1♠, NORTH Pass, EAST 2♥; WEST 3♣, NORTH Pass, EAST 3♠; WEST 4♣, NORTH Pass, EAST 4NT; WEST 5♠, NORTH Pass, EAST 6♠; WEST Pass, NORTH Pass, EAST Pass.
- North Hand (Robot):** K♠, Q♠, 6♠, 5♠, 4♠, 2♠, A♣, K♣, 10♣, 9♣, 8♣, Q♦, 3♦.
- West Hand (Robot):** 7♠, 3♠, K♥, 8♥, 7♥, 4♥, 7♣, 6♣, 4♣, J♦, 10♦, 7♦, 4♦.
- East Hand (Robot):** A♥, 9♥, 10♥, 9♥, 6♥, 5♥, Q♣, 5♣, 3♣, 2♣, 6♦, 5♦, 2♦.
- South Hand (scubapro):** J♠, 10♠, 8♠, A♥, Q♥, J♥, 3♥, 2♥, J♣, A♦, K♦, 9♦, 8♦.
- Score:** 6♠ N, NS 0, EW 0.

Our partner's response of 5 Spades was very helpful because we were able to find out about her key cards **and** her Queen of trumps. A 5 Heart response from partner would have kept us out of slam. (as we would have 4 key cards but no Queen). So, how do we find the Queen of trumps after a 5 Club or 5 Diamond response from partner?

FINDING THE QUEEN OF TRUMPS

Finding the Queen of trumps is very simple when partner responds 5 Hearts or 5 Spades to our 4NT bid. Both 5H and 5S include the location of the Queen of trumps.

What happens when partner responds 5 Clubs or 5 Diamonds?

On the hand to the right our partner has shown 1 keycard (5C = 1 or 4 but we know it can't be 4 because we are looking at 3 keycards in our hand). We can not play slam with only 4 keycards, but **we can play slam if we have 4 keycards and the Queen of trumps.**

WEST	nycpro	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	

robot

E

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

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

S scubapro 7

So how do we ask partner about the Queen of trumps?

After a 5 Club or 5 Diamond we ask for the Queen of trumps by bidding the next available suit **(that is not the trump suit)**.

So in our hand, after partner's 5C response we would **ask for the Queen by bidding 5D**. This bid is called the **"Queen Ask"**

Simple Responses are:

- **Without** the Queen we **signoff** in our major.
- **With** the Queen we **bid 6** of our major.

Note: Don't worry we will complicate these responses further when we talk about *PLAYING GRAND SLAM* in a later episode.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following bidding sequence:

WEST	nycpro	EAST	scubapro
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass			

Below the bidding sequence, the hand layout for player 'scubapro' is shown:

S ♠ A 9 5 3 2 A K 5 7 A K 10 7

The hand consists of: Spades (A, 9, 5, 3, 2), Hearts (A, K, 5), Clubs (7), and Diamonds (A, K, 10, 7). The trump suit is Diamonds, indicated by the 'S' and crown icon on the left and the '7' and diamond icon on the right.

LearnBridge.nyc reminder:

We only need to ask for the Queen when we have **at least 4** keycards.

Here is the full deal:
 Partner bid 6 Spades!
 Which is the correct
 response
 to our Queen asking bid of
 5D
 Way to go Partner!!

Another fine slam for our
 side!

D

Bidding Board 1

N North Robot

WEST NORTH EAST scubap

1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass		Pass

7 6

J 10 9 2

A 6 3 2

5 4 2

W West Robot

E East Robot

J 8

8 7 6 4 3

K 10 5

8 6 3

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

S scubapro 7

6♠ S NS 0 EW 0

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