

# **B**ridge **L**esson

**MODERN SLAM BIDDING**

**CLASS 2**

## MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P 2 ♦ P 2 ♥

P 2 ♠

YOU

♠ AQ986

♥ Q94

♦ J2

♣ AT

## WHEN ARE WE ON THE ROAD TO SLAM?

STEP 1:

WE ARE IN A GAME FORCING AUCTION

STEP 2:

WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A TRUMP FIT

(NOT ALWAYS NECESSARY)

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
------	-------	------	----------

			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	??

## YOU

♠ **AQJ753**

♥ **A87**

♦ **KQ4**

♣ **6**

## HOW DO WE INVESTIGATE?

### KEY CARD BLACKWOOD

ONLY WHEN WE KNOW WE HAVE THE  
VALUES FOR SLAM AND HAVE NO OBVIOUS  
ISSUES WITH OUR HANDS.

### CONTROL BIDDING

WHEN WE ARE NOT SURE OF OUR TOTAL  
VALUES, OR WHEN WE HAVE AN ISSUE WITH  
ONE OR BOTH HANDS.

# CONTROL BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
------	-------	------	----------

			1♠
P	2♣	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♣

## YOU

♠ AQJT753  
♥ A87  
♦ KQ4  
♣

# KEY CARD

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
------	-------	------	----------

			1♠
P	2♣	P	2♠
P	4♠	P	4N

## YOU

♠ AKT842  
♥ K9  
♦ AQ7  
♣ K2

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
------	-------	------	----------

			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	??

## YOU

♠ **AQJT753**

♥ **A87**

♦ **KQ4**



## MODERN CONTROL BIDDING

ONCE WE ARE ON THE ROAD TO SLAM (game forced with a fit), THE BID OF A NON-TRUMP SUIT IS AN ATTEMPT TO PLAY SLAM.

THIS BID IS CALLED A “CONTROL BID”. IT SHOWS EITHER 1<sup>ST</sup> OR 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND CONTROL OF THE SUIT BEING BID.

1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND CONTROL = ACE or a VOID

“I can win the 1<sup>st</sup> lead of this suit”

2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND CONTROL = KING or a SINGLETON

“I can win the 2<sup>nd</sup> lead of this suit”

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	4N

## YOU

♠ AKT842

♥ K9

♦ AQ7

♣ K2

# 1430 KEY CARD

**\*\*THIS IS NOT A SLAM TRY\*\***

**\*\*IT'S A SAFETY CHECK\*\***

We want to make sure we are safe for our flight up to the 6 or 7 level.

## KEY CARD RESPONSES

5♣ = 1 or 4

5♦ = 3 or 0

5♥ = 2 **without** the Q of trumps

5♠ = 2 **with** the Q of trumps

## CONTROL BIDDING

Used to confirm interest in slam.

Shows 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> round control in the suit we bid.

Helps us know when we should continue towards slam.

## KEY CARD

Used to confirm we are likely to make a slam.

Asks about key cards in partner's hand.  
(4 ACES & K OF TRUMPS)

Helps us know when we have enough to play slam.  
(4 KEY CARDS & Q OF TRUMP MIN)

# AVOIDING KEY CARD

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

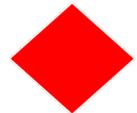


			1 ♠
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	4N
P	5 ♣	P	??

## YOU

♠ AKQJ42

♥ KQ3



♣ K932

AVOID KEY CARD WHEN;

YOU HAVE A VOID

## AVOIDING KEY CARD

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU



P

2N

P

1♠

3♠

P

4♣

P

??

**YOU**



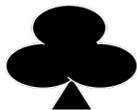
**AKJ42**



**AQ3**



**85**



**K32**

**AVOID KEY CARD WHEN;**

**YOU HAVE A VOID**

**WHEN YOU HAVE TWO QUICK  
LOSERS IN A SUIT**

**WHEN YOU COULD GET TOO  
HIGH AFTER A RESPONSE**

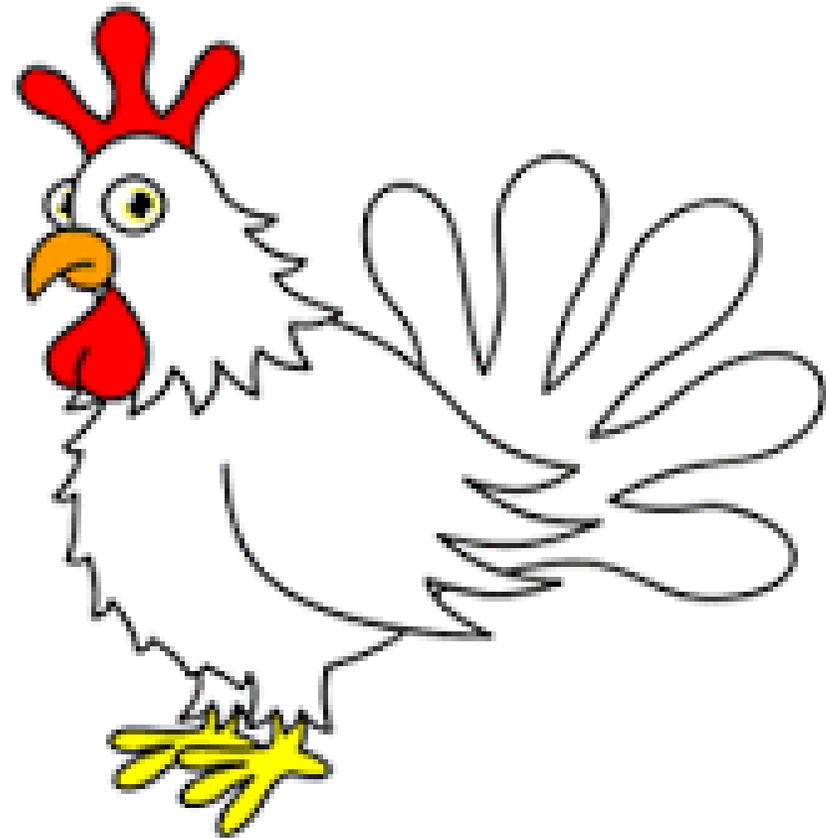
**(THINK THROUGH THE RESPONSES BEFORE YOU BID 4NT)**

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU ★
			1♥
P	3♥	P	4N
P	5♥	P	??

## YOU

♠ **KQ3**  
♥ **AKQ953**  
♦ **K52**  
♣ **5**



## CHICKEN KEY CARD

**\*\*YOU CAN NOT PASS\*\***

**\*\*KEYCARD IS NOT A SLAM TRY\*\***

## MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	2N
P	3♣	P	3♦
P	3♠	P	4N
P	5♣	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **AJ9**

♥ **A843**

♦ **AK98**

♣ **94**

# THE QUEEN ASK

WE MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 4 KEYCARDS AND THE QUEEN OF TRUMPS TO PLAY SMALL SLAM.

WHEN PARTNER'S KEYCARD RESPONSE DOES NOT INCLUDE THE LOCATION OF THE QUEEN (5♣/5♦)  
WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO ASK

THE NEXT AVAILABLE BID, **THAT IS NOT THE TRUMP SUIT**, ASKS PARTNER IF THEY HAVE THE QUEEN OF TRUMP

**SIMPLE RESPONSES;**

BID 6 OF OUR MAJOR WITH THE QUEEN  
SIGN OFF IN 5 OF OUR MAJOR WITHOUT THE QUEEN

**EXPERT RESPONSES WITH QUEEN;**

BID OF A NON-TRUMP SUIT SHOWS QUEEN AND KING IN THE SUIT BID.

# MODERN SLAM BIDDING

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
	1♦	P	1♥
P	4♥	P	4N
P	5♦	P	??

## YOU



8



AQT9



AQ8642



KT

# THE 5NT BID

(AFTER KEY CARD)

- Confirms that our side has all the Key Cards and the queen of trump.
- Is an attempt to play grand slam.
- Asks partner to show their kings SPECIFICALLY

## RESPONSES:

Bid your kings specifically below the trump suit.  
*(up the line like controls)*

## YOUR BID

 **KT52**

 **AKQT3**

 **92**

 **J8**

## YOU

 **AQ9632**

 **J4**

 **AK4**

 **A5**

## RULE

If you have all the key cards, you should almost always let partner know.

# VISUALIZE

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♥	P	2N
P	3 ♥	P	4N
P	5 ♥	P	??

♠  
♥ K  
♦  
♣ A

♠ AK5  
♥ QT93  
♦ AK54  
♣ K9

1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	??

YOU

♠ **AQ9632**  
 ♥ **K3**  
 ♦ **AJ5**  
 ♣ **Q6**

2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1♠	P	2♦
P	2♠	P	3♠
P	4♦	P	??

YOU

♠ **KJ5**  
 ♥ **AQ9**  
 ♦ **KQT54**  
 ♣ **J9**

3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1♠	P	2♦
P	2♠	P	3♠
P	4♦	P	??

YOU

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ9

♦ KT654

♣ A9

4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1♠	P	2♦
P	2♠	P	3♠
P	4♦	P	4N
P	5♠	P	??

YOU

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ9

♦ KT654

♣ A9

5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1N
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♦	P	??

YOU

♠ K32  
♥ A2  
♦ KQ8  
♣ A5432

6

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1N
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♦	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	??

YOU

♠ K32  
♥ A2  
♦ KQ8  
♣ A5432

7

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1N
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♦	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4N
P	5♠	P	??

**YOU**

♠ K32

♥ A2

♦ KQ8

♣ A5432

8

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1N
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♦	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4N
P	5♠	P	5N
P	6♣	P	??

**YOU**

♠ K32

♥ A2

♦ KQ8

♣ A5432

9

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1N
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♦	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4N
P	5♠	P	5N
P	6♣	P	6♦
P	6♥	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **K32**

♥ **A2**

♦ **KQ8**

♣ **A5432**

10

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

	1♠	P	2N
P	3♣	P	3♠
P	4N	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **AK852**

♥ **QJT**

♦ **84**

♣ **KQ2**

11

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	??

YOU

♠ K42

♥ A5

♦ 42

♣ KQJT72

12

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4♥
P	4N	P	??

YOU

♠ K42

♥ A5

♦ 42

♣ KQJT72

13

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	3♠
P	4♣	P	4♥
P	4N	P	5♥
P	5N	P	??

YOU

♠ K42

♥ A5

♦ 42

♣ KQJT72

14

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

		P	1♠
P	2♠	P	??

YOU

♠ AQ9842

♥ 6

♦ AKQ52

♣ T

15

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣
P	3♠	P	??

YOU

♠ AQT64  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ Q6  
 ♣ AQ432

16

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	??

YOU

♠ AQT64  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ Q6  
 ♣ AQ432

17

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4♥
P	4♠	P	??

YOU

♠ AQT64  
♥ 4  
♦ Q6  
♣ AQ432

18

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	??

YOU

♠ KJT64  
♥ 4  
♦ K6  
♣ AKQ32

19

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4N
P	5♦	P	??

YOU

♠ KJT64

♥ 4

♦ K6

♣ AKQ32

20

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4N
P	5♦	P	5♥
P	5♠	P	??

YOU

♠ KJT64

♥ 4

♦ K6

♣ AKQ32

21

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♦	P	3♣
P	3♠	P	4♣
P	4♦	P	4N
P	5♦	P	5♥
P	6♠	P	??

YOU

♠ KJT64

♥ 4

♦ K6

♣ AKQ32

22

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	??

YOU

♠ AKQ432

♥ 42

♦ A

♣ QJ43

23

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♦
P	4♥	P	??

YOU

♠ AKQ432  
 ♥ 42  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ QJ43

24

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♦
P	4♥	P	4N
P	5♥	P	??

YOU

♠ AKQ432  
 ♥ 42  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ QJ43

25

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♦
P	4♥	P	4N
P	5♥	P	5N
P	6♣	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **AKQ432**  
 ♥ **42**  
 ♦ **A**  
 ♣ **QJ43**

26

WEST	NORTH ★	EAST	YOU
------	------------	------	-----

			1♠
P	2♥	P	2♠
P	3♠	P	4♦
P	4♥	P	4N
P	5♥	P	5N
P	6♣	P	6♦
P	6♥	P	??

**YOU**

♠ **AKQ432**  
 ♥ **42**  
 ♦ **A**  
 ♣ **QJ43**

## ANSWER KEY

1. 4D We have some extra values, no club control, yes diamond control
2. 4S Partner has denied a club control, we are off the ace king of clubs
3. 4N We have all the controls and extra values for the auction, perfect time to keycard
4. 6S We are off exactly 1 keycard (we have the queen of trumps). Don't chicken out!
5. 3S 3D was game forcing, no reason to jump and take up the extra level of bidding
6. 4N We cant have a better hand for the bidding, perfect cards for partner's two suiter
7. 5N We have no idea if there could be 7, need to let partner know we have all the keycards
8. 6D Partner still has interest in 7, no reason to hide our king of diamonds
9. 7S We have 17 max and we have 16 points of PERFECT cards. Partner could have signed off. Blame them im 7 goes down!
10. 5S Always show the Queen when you know you have 10 trump between the hands.
11. 4H Control in H, No control in diamonds, certainly enough to cooperate
12. 5H Two keycards, no queen of trumps
13. 7NT Partners 5NT bid confirmed all the keycards. Count your tricks
14. 3D We know if partner has two keycards we have a slam, lets see how strong partner is before we risk the 5 level
15. 4C Not an amazing hand, but worth a control bid
16. 4H We ought to show partner our heart control
17. Pass If partner couldn't go past 4S, we certainly cant. All suits controlled doesn't mean auto slam
18. 4N We have all the suits controlled and a very strong hand. No reason to bid 4H on the way
19. 5H We have all the keycards, do we have the queen of trump?
20. 6S We may make 7 if we can find the queen of spades, not worth the gamble
21. 7S Partner has 3 keycards and the queen of spades. Looks Good
22. 4D Denies a club control, shows a diamond control, implies some slam interest
23. 4N Partner would have signed off if we were off the ace king of clubs
24. 5N We have all the keycards, we could still have 7
25. 6D We are very close to 7, partner has Two aces and the king of clubs, just one more king
26. 7S 6H was just what we needed to hear!