

Great Mysteries: 4NT bids

4NT is always **Regular Blackwood** (asking for aces only, *not* keycards) if:

- ❑ It's the opening bid.
- ❑ It's a direct jump response to partner's opening bid of one of a suit (1S-4NT).

4NT is **Keycard (KC) Blackwood** (asking about four aces and the trump king):

- ❑ For the last-bid suit, if it was natural (length-showing). 1S-2H / 3D-4NT = KC for diamonds
- ❑ For our agreed trump suit (suit was raised). 1H-2NT (Jacoby) / 3C-4NT = KC for hearts
- ❑ For a trump fit that's implied because:
 - Partner made a preemptive opening or overcall. 2S-2NT / 3D-4NT = KC for spades
 - You or partner made a cuebid to confirm support. 1S-(2C)-3C-(Pass) / 4NT = KC for spades
 - The 4NT bidder made a minor-suit or Texas transfer. 1H-1S / 3H-4C / 4NT = KC for hearts
 - The 4NT bidder started with a strong jump shift. 1NT-2S (clubs) / 3C-4NT = KC for clubs
 - 1NT-4D (hearts) / 4H-4NT = KC for hearts
 - 1D-2S / 3D-4NT = KC for spades
- ❑ For partner's **major** if 4NT is not a jump. 1H-(4S)-4NT = KC for hearts

4NT is **quantitative** (invitational to slam) if:

- ❑ Our last bid was a natural notrump opening or rebid:
 - 1NT-4NT = Invites 6NT
 - 1C-1H / 2NT-4NT = Invites 6NT
 - 1D-3NT / 4NT = Invites 6NT
- ❑ 4NT is the first rebid by the Strong 2C opener: 2C-2D / 4NT = 10-trick notrump hand
- ❑ Our opening bid was 1NT or 2NT **and**:
 - Responder uses Stayman, then jumps to 4NT. 1NT-2C / 2H-4NT = Invites 6S or 6NT
 - Responder transfers, then jumps to 4NT. 1NT-2D / 2H-4NT = Invites 6H or 6NT

4C is **Gerber** (aces only) if opener's last **natural** bid was notrump.

1C-1S / **1NT**-4C = Ace-asking

4C is **Keycard Gerber** if his last bid showed a 4+-card suit.

1NT-2C / 2D-4C = Ace-asking

1NT-2C / **2S**-4C = KC Gerber for spades

4NT is **natural** (*not* a slam invite) if:

- ❑ We've bid to the 4-level and haven't found a good fit. 2NT-3H (transfer) / 3S-4D (2nd suit) / 4NT
- 2C-2S / 3H-4C / 4NT

4NT is a **two-suited takeout** if:

- ❑ It's an overcall. (1H)-4NT = Minors
- ❑ Partner made a takeout double and 4NT is not a jump. (3S)-Pass-(4S)-4NT = Any two suits
- ❑ Partner opened a minor and 4NT is not a jump. (4H)-DBL-(Pass)-4NT = Minors
- (1S)-DBL-(4S)-4NT = Any two suits
- 1D-(4S)-4NT = Clubs & hearts (5-5+)

Expert agreements: 4NT is **natural** (*not* Blackwood) if:

- ❑ It's an overcall of an opponent's 4C or 4D opening. (4D)-4NT = To play, 24+ HCPs or 10 tricks
- ❑ Partner overcalled 4 of a minor and RHO passes. (3S)-4C-(Pass)-4NT = To play
- ❑ We've bid all four suits but haven't found a fit. *But:* (3S)-4C-(4S)-4NT = KC for clubs
- ❑ It's a jump response to partner's takeout double. 1S-2D / 3C-3H / 4NT = Slam invite in NT
- (3H)-DBL-(Pass)-4NT = Slam invite in NT