

Slam Bidding III (1430)

Roman KeyCard Blackwood, known as “1430¹ KeyCard Ask” or simply “1430”, evolved from regular Blackwood adding the trump King and Queen to the four Aces for the slam assessment. Like Blackwood, the primary function of 1430 is to keep you out of “poor” slams; it just does a better job of it.

1430 should not be initiated if any of the following are true:

- ❖ You need Partner’s cooperation to invite slam, e.g. maximum vs minimum
- ❖ You have a worthless doubleton/tripletton
- ❖ You have a void
- ❖ An unsatisfactory reply to 4NT drives your side too high

After you and Partner agree on a suit and you judge slam can be made if your side is not missing two KeyCards, 1430 KeyCard Ask begins with 4NT. The trump King plus the four Aces are the five KeyCards considered in the initial responses:

Bid	Meaning
5♣	1 or 4 KeyCards
5♦	3 or 0 KeyCards
5♥	2 KeyCards without the trump Queen
5♠	2 KeyCards with the trump Queen

In these examples, assume spades are agreed as trump and Partner’s bid is 4NT.

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| (a) ♠ A J 10 7 | (b) ♠ 9 8 6 3 | (c) ♠ K 8 6 3 | (d) ♠ K Q 6 3 |
| ♥ K J 4 3 | ♥ K J 10 3 | ♥ J 10 3 | ♥ J 10 3 |
| ♦ 7 | ♦ 5 | ♦ A 5 | ♦ A 5 |
| ♣ K Q 7 4 | ♣ K J 10 5 | ♣ K J 10 5 | ♣ K J 10 5 |

Your responses are (a) 5♣; (b) 5♦; (c) 5♥; and, (d) 5♠.

King Ask

The 4NT bidder can inquire about non-trump kings following the initial KeyCard response by bidding 5NT, “King Ask”. King Ask shows interest in Grand Slam, guarantees all KeyCards, and the Queen of trump (or equivalent). 5NT King Ask applies regardless of Responder’s initial response. We suggest using “specific king” responses, as shown below, rather than number of outside kings, because a particular king is more often critical to reaching Grand Slam than the number of

¹ Some use 3014 responses, but the concept is the same.

kings. Responder begins with the lowest ranking King. The following assume spades are agreed as trump.

Bid	Meaning
6♣	Have ♣ King; May have another
6♦	Has ♦ King; does not have ♣ King; may have another
6♥	Has ♥ King; does not have the ♣ King nor ♦ King
	Bidding trump suit denies an <u>outside</u> King, unless that King is of higher rank than trump

Responder retreats to 6 of the trump suit without an outside king or, when holding a king of higher rank than trump, which would force the partnership into a Grand Slam if bid at the 6-level.

Queen Ask (Advanced)

If the initial response is 5♣ or 5♦, the status of the trump Queen remains unknown (unless Asker holds the trump Queen). The lowest non-trump step above the initial response is “Queen Ask.” Without the trump Queen, Responder returns to the trump suit at the lowest level. With the trump Queen: (i) and no outside king, Responder bids 6 of trump; (ii) with an outside king(s), Responder responds identical to King Ask.

West pictures slam when East supports ♠s after a 2/1 response. After getting a 5♣ (1 or 4 KeyCards) response to 4NT, West does not want to be in slam missing an Ace and the trump Queen, so bids 5♦, Queen Ask.

East, holding the trump Queen, shows it along with the ♦ King and denies the ♣ King by bidding 6♦. Without the trump Queen, East would bid 5♠.

When East raises to 3♥, West should make a 4♣ Control Bid, which, in this case, will garner a 4♦ Control Bid from East. Then, West can begin 1430. Here, a hasty West starts 1430 prematurely. When East shows “3 or 0” with 5♦, West can’t tell if they are already too high! West signs off in 5♥, but East, holding 3 KeyCards, correctly continues to slam.

West	East
♠ A K 9 5 4	♠ Q 8 7 2
♥ 4	♥ A 10
♦ A 4 2	♦ K Q J 6 5
♣ K Q J 8	♣ 3 2
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass
4 NT	Pass
5 ♦	Pass
6 ♠	All pass

West	East
♠ 9 3	♠ A J 8 5 4
♥ A K 10 7 4 3 2	♥ J 9 6
♦ K 6	♦ A 8
♣ K 2	♣ A 10 8
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass
	All pass

Quiz 35: Slam Bidding III (1430)

The agreed trump suit is provided; in the “a” set of six problems, you are Responder and Partner has bid 4NT (1430) and may make a second “ask.” In the “b” set, you have an agreed suit (given) and bid 4NT (1430), Partner has responded and it’s your bid.

	Bids & Responses	Your Hand		Bids & Responses	Your Hand
1a.	(♠) 4NT ____ 5♦ ____	♠ KT98 ♥ 6 ♦ KQ65 ♣ JT87	2a.	(♥) 4NT ____	♠ 82 ♥ A9876 ♦ A ♣ K8765
3a.	(♠) 4NT ____ 5NT ____	♠ AK7 ♥ T987 ♦ 76 ♣ A965	4a.	(♥) 4NT ____ 5♥ ____	♠ KQ32 ♥ QJT3 ♦ KQ ♣ 842
5a.	(♥) 4NT ____	♠ JT76 ♥ Q32 ♦ A7 ♣ AT98	6a.	(♦) 4NT ____	♠ T98 ♥ AK9 ♦ KJ4 ♣ KQ87

	Bids & Responses	Your Hand		Bids & Responses	Your Hand
1b.	(♠) 4NT 5♣ ____	♠ AKT9 ♥ 6 ♦ AKQ6 ♣ KT87	2b.	(♥) 4NT 5♥ ____	♠ K8 ♥ A9876 ♦ A ♣ K8765
3b.	(♠) 4NT 5♣ ____	♠ AQ87 ♥ K987 ♦ K6 ♣ K96	4b.	(♥) 4NT 5♥ ____	♠ KQ3 ♥ KQJT ♦ AQJ ♣ A42
5b.	(♥) 4NT 5♣ ____	♠ KT76 ♥ KQ32 ♦ K7 ♣ AT9	6b.	(♦) 4NT 5♣ ____	♠ T ♥ AK9 ♦ AKQJT9 ♣ KQ8