

# 1430 Review (Notes)

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Topics

1430 Terminology  
Responding to 4NT  
Q-Ask & K-Ask  
Responding with a void



1430 Review

Roman KeyCard Blackwood or "1430"  
Five KeyCards: 4 Aces & Trump King

♠: 1 or 4 KeyCards  
♥: 3 or 0 KeyCards  
♦: 2 KeyCards without the trump Q  
♣: 2 KeyCards with the trump Q

4NT "Asker" becomes the Captain

Responses...& Why its called "1430"

1430 KeyCard Ask

Do Not Use 1430  
... if ...

- ❖ You need Partner's cooperation to invite slam, e.g. maximum vs minimum
- ❖ You have a worthless holding, e.g. xx(x)
- ❖ You have a void
- ❖ An unsatisfactory reply to 4NT will drive you too high

After I first learned Ace-asking bids, like 1430, if I had not used them at all in those first couple of years, I'd probably have 50 more masterpoints today! If you go down in a slam, you are getting a very bad result. At matchpoints you want about a 70% chance of making. On average, 8-10% of boards make slam, but some are low percentage. However, sometimes they come in bunches!

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**1430 KeyCard Ask**

The Most Important Use of 1430  
Keeping You Out of "Poor"  
Slams

- Missing the King & Queen of trump
- Missing an Ace and the trump King & Queen

If you know your side holds 10+trump, then count that as "holding the trump Queen."

**Responding To 1430 Ask**

After suit agreement and Control Bids, if any,  
4NT is "1430 KeyCard Ask"

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

After you ask via 4NT, by counting your KeyCards, adding Partner's and subtracting from 5, you can determine if your side is missing more than one KeyCard. For example, if Partner responds 5C (1 KeyCard) and you have 3 KeyCards, you know there's one missing. Unless you have the trump Q, you'll ask about it before going to slam, as you don't want to be off a KeyCard and the Queen of trump.

After a 5-level response to "1430 KeyCard Ask"  
5NT is "Specific King Ask"

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

King Ask shows interest in Grand Slam; guarantees all KeyCards and the Queen of trump (or equivalent)

Always bid your lowest King first. If Partner, who bid 4NT, now bids a higher suit, Partner is trying to get to a Grand Slam if you have that King. E.g. With Spades as trump: 4NT – 5C // 5NT – 6C // 6H ← this is asking about the Heart K and asking you to bid 7S if you have it, otherwise bid 6S.  
Little known or used bid: 6NT = 3 Kings

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Ken's Karets

- ❖ Make the Control Bid which "forces" partner to tell you what you need to know for slam.
- ❖ Use Control Bids to indicate slam interest and identify weakness.
- ❖ With a 9+Major Fit, bid GS in the Major, unless you can count 13 tricks.
- ❖ 2/1 auction allows for in-depth slam exploration.

After a 5♣/5♦ to "1430 KeyCard Ask"  
The next, non-trump step is "Queen Ask"

Bid	Meaning
5 of trump	Lacks trump Q
5 of non-trump suit	Has trump Q and King of suit; may have higher King
6 of trump	Has trump Q; lacks outside King

Queen Ask does not confirm interest in Grand Slam

Very important: If you respond 5D to a 4NT ask and Partner signs off, bid 6 of your suit. E.g. 4NT – 5D // 5H (sign-off) – 6H ← Do not pass with 3 KeyCards!

When Is 4NT Not 1430?  
or When is 4NT Quantitative / Unusual?

Situation	Examples	Meaning
A jump to 4NT after Partner's NT bid	1NT – 4NT 1♣ – 1♥ // 1NT – 4NT	Quantitative
A jump to 4NT after 2♦ rebid to Stayman	1NT – 2♣ // 2♦ – 4NT	Quantitative
After a 4-level preempt	(4♣) – 4NT (1♣) – X – (4♣) – 4NT	Unusual
After Jacoby Transfer	1NT – 2♥ // 2♣ – 4NT	Quantitative <sup>1</sup>

1 When using Texas Transfers.

The 4NT after Jacoby is little known. Because you are using Texas Transfers, this is a Quantitative ask, not 1430.

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## Responding To 1430 Ask

Responder Has a Useful Void	
Bid	Meaning
5NT	Even number of KeyCards (2 or 4) <sup>1</sup>
6x	Odd number of KeyCards (1 or 3), void in x

<sup>1</sup> With 0 KeyCards we recommend responding with 5♦; this choice is partnership agreement.

A useful void is one in an unbid suit, an opponent's suit or Partner's second suit. A void which is not useful is one in Partner's first suit.

## Control Bid Summary

- After suit agreement, new suits above 3NT are Control Bids; below 3NT, new suits are a 1-round force and may be a Control Bid
- With two controls always shows the lowest control
- Initial Control Bids show an Ace/King; Control Bids above game may show shortness (not in a natural suit bid by Partner)
- Returning to the trump suit denies additional control(s) or a minimum considering previous bids; it is never a Control Bid
- Control Bids are generally made "up the line"; initiator may bypass a suit when information on a specific suit is needed
- If a Partner skips a suit when responding to a Control Bid, Partner denies a control in the skipped suit (except when short in the suit and the initial Control Bid is made below game)
- Rebidding a control shows 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> round control, i.e. the Ace and the King or a singleton Ace

If a minimum hand returns to the trump suit at game level, it doesn't necessarily deny a control above the trump suit.

## Slam Bidding 7 deadly sins

1. Not using Control Bids when appropriate
2. Bidding slam off two quick losers
3. Not inviting slam with "enough" HE points
4. Stretching for slam with a minimum of HE points
5. Bidding a slam missing two KeyCards
6. Bidding a slam off an Ace & trump King/Queen<sup>1</sup>
7. Bidding a minor-suit slam when NT clearly has the points to also make; or bidding a NT slam with a 9+card major fit

<sup>1</sup> Lacking a 10+card fit