

Slam Bidding

If no long suits, you usually need 33 HCP to make 6NT.

However, many hands that have no chance at 12 tricks in notrump can take 12 tricks in a suit contract. Therefore, strive to play slams in a suit contract.

Good hand evaluation is essential. We will discuss that at length. In addition, here are three tools to help with slam bidding:

Roman Keycard Blackwood

4NT asks for number of keycards. There are 5 keycards; the 4 aces and the trump king. All partnerships who play RKC must know what is trump. An agreed trump suit makes things easy. Otherwise, most players use “last-bid suit.” Be sure you both know whether you are using 1430 or 3014.

<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>		<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>
♠AQ1074	♠9832	A	2♣	
♥KQ	♥82			
♦AKQJ8	♦1053			
♣2	♣AK103			

<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>		<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>
♠AQ1074	♠K832	B	2♣	
♥KQ	♥82			
♦AKQJ8	♦1053			
♣2	♣A1093			

Control Bids

After a major is agreed and the *partnership is forced to game* (and slam is possible), show the cheapest control. A “control” is a holding which is likely to avoid two fast losers in a suit (ace, king, singleton or void).

<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>		<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>
♠9	♠AK8	C	1♦	
♥AQJ2	♥K10843			
♦AQ983	♦K4			
♣642	♣Q75			

<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>		<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>
♠642	♠AK8	D	1♦	
♥AQJ2	♥K10843			
♦AQ983	♦K4			
♣9	♣Q75			

Jacoby 2NT

After a 1♥ or 1♠ opening, responder’s 2NT is a 4+ trump game-forcing raise. This is not used if there is any interference (or by a passed hand). Opener rebids: 3 of a new suit with shortness. With no shortness, 3 of the major is strong, 3NT is medium and 4 of the major is weak.

<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>		<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>
♠7	♠KQ	E	1♥	
♥AQ9872	♥KJ64			
♦KQJ	♦A52			
♣A76	♣8543			

<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>		<u>WEST</u>	<u>EAST</u>
♠7	♠8543	F	1♥	
♥AQ9872	♥KJ64			
♦KQJ	♦A52			
♣A76	♣KQ			