

Game Force (GF)

“Game Force” means just that ! You are not stopping short of game

Most play 2♣ as GF, so lets only discuss this option

Partner MUST respond ! Unlike the time a married couple were playing and the wife passed her husband’s 2♣. When asked about the bidding (the opponent thinking it was not the normal GF bid), the lady informed them that she and her husband were not on speaking terms !

The Opener

Usually the GF hand is 23+ points. This bid, however, can be used for a hand with more shape and a few less points, but you must take care and use some partnership rules. Until confident, do not do this with less than 19 points with a long suit and ensure you have at least 4 losers in major or 3 losers in a minor. Look at board 14 on Page 3 for an example.

The Responder

This person often becomes the captain in the partnership, as they will know enough about Opener’s hand within two bids and can decide to look for slam or not.

Responses to 2♣

Responder	Meaning of bid
2♦	This is a weak response (less than 8 points), so now the opener has a better idea if slam is on.
2♦ alternative	Weak or waiting: A good option, particularly if you only have a club or diamond suit and do not want to go immediately to the 3 level (Board 14 is a good example). Your partnership needs to decide and must be discussed before you start to play ☺
2♥ or ♠	8+ points and 5+ ♥ or ♠
2NT	8+ balanced
3♦ or ♣	8+ not balanced.

Subsequent bids after Responder’s 2♦

Opener	Meaning of bid	Responder
2♥/♠	19+ Pts, 5+ ♥ or ♠ DO NOT jump. You have time to get the message across and your partner will not pass !	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Suit of your own = 5+ that suit 4 of Opener’s major: weak and not interested in slam (often referred to as fast arrival) 3 of Opener’s major: slam interest in that suit (allowing room to bid something else eg Ace ask or cue bids)
2NT	23 or 24 points, balanced	<p>You may pass with zero points. This is about the only time you can !</p> <p>Stayman and transfers apply just the same as you do over 1NT openers</p>
3♦/♣	19+ Pts, 5+ ♣ or ♦	Bid naturally
3♥/♠	25+ pts 6+ ♥ or ♠	Bid naturally
	<i>There is usually no need to jump in a suit</i>	
3NT	25 or 26 points, balanced	Pass with less than 8 pts
Ace ask	Huge !	

Points to Note

- A slam relying on 2 finesses is not a good slam to be in
- A balanced combined 31-32 points is usually not good enough for a NT slam
- An unbalanced combined 28 points could well be good enough for a slam !
- You usually need 37+ combined points to bid a grand slam
- Your partnership needs to sort out your Ace ask conventions in slam tries: Gerber (usually after no trump auctions) or Blackwood
- Key Card, splinters and Cue bids are very useful for slam bidding, but get the basics right first before trying these !

*Bidding slams is not easy,
but getting the bidding right and making a slam
is one of the great joys of bridge !!*

WHAT TO DO

14	♠ J75	<i>Dir: E</i>	
	♥ 8742	<i>Vul: None</i>	
	♦ Q94		
	♣ Q83		
♠ 9		♠ AK1082	
♥ AQ3		♥ KJ1095	
♦ K1032		♦ AJ	
♣ KJ1054		♣ A	
	♠ Q643		
5	♥ 6		
13	♦ 8765		
2	♣ 9762		
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N	- - - - -
		S	- - - - -
		E	5 6 7 6 7
		W	5 6 7 6 7

How many losers in East's hand ?

What is Responder's bid after East Opens 2♣ ?

What is the safest contract ?

5	♠ 972	<i>Dir: N</i>	
	♥ 63	<i>Vul: N-S</i>	
	♦ K1083		
	♣ J754		
♠ KQJ5		♠ 8643	
♥ AKJ74		♥ Q98	
♦ A		♦ 952	
♣ AKQ		♣ 1098	
	♠ A10		
4	♥ 1052		
27	♦ QJ764		
7	♣ 632		
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N	- - - - -
		S	- - - - -
		E	3 1 6 6 3
		W	3 1 6 6 3

How many losers in West's hand ?

What does West open ?

What is Responder's bid after West Opens ?

What does West rebid after East responds ?



WITH THOSE BIG HANDS !

CRO ACE ASK

This is a popular Ace Ask convention that helps identify which Aces.

CRO stands for:

Colour - either Red or black

Rank - either Majors or Minors

Odd - neither the same colour nor same rank ie ♠ and ♦ or ♥ and ♣

After asking in either 4♣ or 4NT, the responses are:

4♣ ask	4NT ask	Meaning
4♦	5♣	0 or 3 Aces
4♥	5♦	1 or 4 Aces
4♠	5♥	2 Aces the same <u>C</u> olour
4NT	5♠	2 Aces the same <u>R</u> ank
5♣	5NT	2 <u>O</u> dd Aces 0 Kings
5♦	6♣	2 <u>O</u> dd Aces 1 King
5♥	6♦	2 <u>O</u> dd Aces 2 Kings
5♠	6♥	2 <u>O</u> dd Aces 3 Kings
5NT	6♠	2 <u>O</u> dd Aces 4 Kings

To start with, do not use the bids between 5♦ to 5NT until you are comfortable with the basic responses. The use of 5♦ and above is also known as Extended CRO

Another option to consider

If your partner shows 1 or 4, you can usually tell which it is. 4NT after that will ask which Ace. Responder bids the suit of the Ace they have got

You can King ask and use the same CRO responses or you can use normal response

Updated: 1st Sept, 2015

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RKC (ROMAN KEY CARD)

This convention usually applies once a suit is agreed. The bid is 4NT.

There are a total of 5 Key cards which are:

The four aces plus the King in the trump suit (or implied trump suit)

After 4NT RKC, the responses are:

5♣	0 or 3 Key Cards
5♦	1 or 4 Key Cards
5♥	2 Key Cards and not the Q of trumps
5♠	2 Key Cards with the Q of trumps
5NT	5 Key cards (hardly likely)

NB: You can use it regardless if a suit agreed or not. If you choose to do so, then you are Key Carding in the last bid suit.

eg 1♠ - 2♥ - 3♣ - 4NT is Key Carding in clubs

KING ASKING CAN BE ADDED

Many just play the above option, but you can add King asking, after the Key Cards are known. This is helpful for finding a Grand slam, as the responses mean you are in 6 anyway.

Bid 5NT to ask for the number of Kings held excluding the King of trump. The responses are:

6♣	0 or 3 Kings
6♦	1 King
6♥	2 Kings

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