

Roman Keycard Blackwood

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Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

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Ace Asking:

Blackwood
Gerber

The three conventions everybody learns right from the beginning are Stayman, Blackwood and Gerber.

Consider the hands:

♠QJ10643	♠9852
♥QJ	♥AK1062
♦654	♦A
♣52	♣AKQ

The bidding could go:

2♠	3♥	
3♠	4NT	
5♣	6♠	0 aces

The contract fails because the ace and king of trump are missing. The king of trump is just as important as one of the aces so Roman keycard asks for keycards not aces.

The keycards, numbering five, are the four aces and king of trump. When trump has not been agreed upon, the trump suit is considered to be the last natural suit directly before 4NT. The queen of trump is a minor keycard.

The responses to 4NT are:

5♣	0 or 3 keycards
5♦	1 or 4 keycards
5♥	2 or 5 keycards without the queen of trump
5♠	2 or 5 keycards with the queen of trump

After 5♣ or 5♦, the next suit up asks for the Queen of trump.

2♠	3♥	
3♠	4NT	
5♣	5♦	
5♥		no, I don't have it
5♠		yes, I have it

1430 gives more room for the queen ask. The queen ask is a more advanced topic most people do not use even though they still use 1430.

0314 is usually best for clubs. If the queen ask is not being used, then 0314 is the best.

The responses to 1430 are:

5♣	1 or 4 keycards
5♦	0 or 3 keycards
5♥	2 or 5 keycards without the queen of trump
5♠	2 or 5 keycards with the queen of trump

Asking for kings. 5NT after 4NT has been used.

no longer includes the king of trumps.

often guarantees all the keycards including the queen of trump

Very Rarely, one may ask for kings missing a keycard when exploring for either 6NT or 6 of a suit.

Specific Kings

5NT can be used to show ones lower ranking king

Quantitative

1NT 4NT

This is not asking for aces. It asks partner to bid 6NT with a maximum (17) or a good 16, otherwise pass.

Gerber

Usually directly over Notrump

1♣	1♥	
2NT	4♣	
4♣	4♦	0 or 4 aces
	4♥	1 ace
	4♠	2 aces
	4NT	3 aces

5♣ never promises all the aces. One can still bid 5NT

Other Useful conventions

Minorwood

4 of a minor asks for keycards in the minor

Exclusion Blackwood.

Jump to a suit one level above the splinter bid asks for keycards excluding that suit.

1♥	3♠	splinter bid
		4 card heart support
		stiff spade
		9-11 high card points

1♥	4♠	asking for keycards in hearts ignoring the spade suit.
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