

Voidwood

After trump is established for major, a jump to 5 level (or 4S if trump is Heart) shows void in that suit and at the same time asks for key cards. In response **The Ace of the void suit is not counted.**

For example: The bidding process:

Opener		Responder
1 ♠		3 NT
1 ♠	or	2 NT
1 ♠	or	3D
1 ♣	or	1 ♠
2 ♠		

It is agreed that Spades is the trump suit. Normally, the opener or responder, who is looking for a possible slam contract, will generally employ the CRO Gerber or Roman Key Card Blackwood convention to discover the number of Key Cards held by the responder. However, if person who looks for slam has a void, her hand is much more valuable. Voidwood is a conventional method, which will assist person with void in showing her partner that she holds a void and in which suit the void is.

Opener	Responder	Meaning
1 ♠	3 NT	
5 ♣		Voidwood - void in Clubs.
5 ♦		Voidwood - void in Diamonds.
5 ♥		Voidwood - void in Hearts.

By jumping to the Five Level, the opener is communicating to his partner that he has interest in a slam contract and that he has a void in the bid suit. The responder, realizing the location of the void, responds by counting his Key Cards **except** the Key Card in the suit, in which the opener is void.

Consider following scenario:

West
♠ KQ87

East
♠ AJ10652

♥ 5
♦ Q965
♣ AJ86

♥ AKQ74
♦
♣ K4

West	East	Meaning
1♣		A natural opening bid.
	1♠	As always, a new suit is one-round forcing.
2♠		Shows limited support. Trump suit is established.
	5♦	Voidwood showing a void in Diamonds and asking for Keycards.
6C		Showing two Keycards and Q of spade. The Diamond suit is not counted, so therefore the two Keycards, by inference, must be the King of Spades and the Ace of Clubs.
	7♠	Since there are no losers in trump, no losers in Hearts, no losers in the Diamond suit owing to the void, and partner has the Ace of Clubs, East bids the grand slam in Spades.