

Slam Bidding

To make a slam, one usually requires first-round control in three suits and second round control in the fourth suit.

When looking for a possible slam, one often asks the following Questions:

- 1. What cards should my partner have to be able to make a slam?**
- 2. How may I obtain the required information?**
- 3. Are there any bidding techniques or conventions that I can use to obtain the required information?**
- 4. If my partner does not have the required cards for a slam, can I
Safely stop short or slam?**

Slam Bidding

- **Balance Hands**
 - Only high card points to consider
 - Quantitative invitations are the go
 - Gerber can also be used
- **Slam in Suits → more to consider**
 - Checking for controls is necessary
 - WHICH controls (Aces/voids, or kings/singletons)
 - By Cue Bidding below game
 - Use of Blackwood to establish
 - HOW MANY controls
 - One partner becomes “Captain” when looking
 - We should not bid slam with two controls missing

Combing both methods

Slam Bidding

2C openings

- 2D 0-7 points
- 2H 8+ points and 5+ good* hearts
- 2S 8+ points and 5+ good spades
- 3C 8+ points and 5+ good clubs
- 3D 8+ points and 5+ good diamonds
- 2NT 8+ points no good 5 card

With positive response, we are always going to game or slam
take it slowly, start cue bidding

* Good suit is having 2 of the top 3 or 3 of the top five honors

Slam Bidding

Other sequences that may require investigation:

- 1M 2NT Jacoby 2NT, 4 card support and 13+hcp
- 1M 3M invitational, opener very strong
- 1M 3D Bergen = invitational and 4 card support
- 1M 3NT Bergen 13-15hcp 3 card support
- 1M 4x splinter good support and shortage in the suit bid
- 2NT 20-22hcp with responder being strong or a long suit
- 1M 2x 2/1 game force
- 1NT Responder strong and possible long suit
- 1m 2m inverted minors

Slam Bidding – 1430 RKCB

In a suit contract, King of trump, same as aces, is a Key Card. So we have 5 Key Cards (4 aces and king of trump).

Also Queen of Trump is an important card

4NT after a Major fit is established ask for Key Cards. Responses:

- 5C = 1 or 4 Key Cards
- 5D = 0 or 3 Key Cards
- 5H = 2 Key Cards and no Queen of trumps
- 5S = 2 Key Cards plus queen of trump

Slam Bidding – 1430 RKCB

In a suit contract, King of trump, same as aces, is a Key Card.
Also Queen of Trump is an important card

After 5C or 5D, next suit up asks for queen of trump. Responses:

- Return to trump suit = No queen of trump
- 5NT yes I have the Queen but no other King to show you
- Any other suit = Yes I have the Queen & this particular king

In response to 5NT we either show kings or bid grand slam with a source of tricks

Bidding a suit at 6 level says: If you have Queen of this particular suit, bid 7

Slam Bidding – 1430 MinorWood

To investigate slam in minors and be able to sign off at 5 level.
When a minor suit is established, 4C and 4D bids asks for Key Cards for C and D

Responses to 4C: (note we can sign off in 5C)

- 4D = 1 or 4 Key Cards → 4H asks for queen of club
- 4H = 0 or 3 Key Cards → 4S asks for queen of club
- 4S = 2 Key Cards and no Queen of trumps
- 4NT = 2 Key Cards plus queen of trump

Responses to 4D: (note we can sign off in 5D)

- 4H = 1 or 4 Key Cards → 4S asks for queen of diamond
- 4S = 0 or 3 Key Cards → 4NT asks for queen of diamond
- 4NT = 2 Key Cards and no Queen of trumps
- 5C = 2 Key Cards plus queen of trump

Slam bidding - Quantitative

You

♠ A 7 4 3

♥ K 7 5

♦ A K 6 3

♣ A Q

Partner

♠ K 9

♥ A Q 3

♦ J 5 4

♣ J T 6 3 2

Bidding:

You

2NT

P

Partner

4NT

With a balance hand we open 2NT showing 20-22 points.

With 11 points partner is asking if our 2NT is maximum points.
Because it is not, we pass the quantitative invitation

Slam bidding- Quantitative

You

♠ A 7 4 3

♥ K J 5

♦ A K 6 3

♣ A K

Partner

♠ K 9

♥ A Q 3

♦ T 5 4

♣ Q T 6 3 2

Bidding:

You

2NT

6NT

Partner

4NT

P

With a balance hand we open 2NT showing 20-22 points.

With 11 points partner is asking if our 2NT is maximum points.
We bid slam with maximum 22 points

Slam bidding - MinorWood

You

♠ A K Q

♥ J

♦ A K J 9 7

♣ K J 8 5

Partner

♠ J 2

♥ Q 7 6

♦ 4 3

♣ A Q T 7 6 3

Bidding:

You

2C

4C

4H

6C

Partner

3C

4D

4NT

p

Positive with good 5+ card

Key cards for C → 4D = one key card

4H = do you have the queen, 4NT = yes but no other king to show you.

Despite good D, as soon as partner respond positive with C we start investigation slam in C, and use 4C MinorWood

Slam bidding

You

♠ A 7 4 3

♥ Q 6 5

♦ A J 9

♣ Q 9 7

Partner

♠ K Q 6

♥ A K 4

♦ K Q 4 3

♣ K J 8

Bidding:

You

1C

P

Partner

6NT

No point in looking for major fit

With 21 points and balance hand, partner simply bid 6NT

Slam bidding

You

♠ A K Q J 8 4

♥ K J 2

♦ Q

♣ A J 8

Partner

♠ 7 6 2

♥ Q 9

♦ A T 8 7 6 5 2

♣ 4

Bidding:

You

2C

2S

4C

4NT

6S

Partner

2D

3S

4D

5C

P

waiting

Partner supports (got a little extra)

Cue bidding showing controls

Key Card asking → 1 or 4 key cards

With one key card missing, we bid small slam

Slam bidding

You

♠ A 5 4 3

♥ 7

♦ 9 3

♣ A Q 8 7 4 2

Partner

♠ K Q J T

♥ A K T 8 5 2

♦ A

♣ 6 3

Bidding:

You

Partner

1H

2C

2S

Partner reverse shows 17+ points and 5-4 shape

3S

4D

4D & 4H Cue bids showing control

4H

4NT

partner uses RKCB asking

5H

6S

We show 2 Key Cards enough for partner to bid slam

3S bid by us leaves room for cue bidding. Once we show Spade support, partner initiates Cue bidding and later uses RKCB to test for slam

Slam bidding - Bergen

You

♠ K J 7 4

♥ J 8 5 4

♦ J 5 4

♣ A J

Partner

♠ A Q

♥ K Q T 6 2

♦ A 8

♣ K Q 6 3

Bidding:

You

Partner

1H

3D

3S

4C

4D

4H

4NT

5C

6H

Our 3D here is Bergen raises showing 4 card support and 10-12 points, 3S, 4C, 4D are cue bids, 4NT is RKCB and 5C response shows 1 or 4 key cards. With one key cards missing partner bids the small slam

If you are not using Bergen, you would bid 3H invitational and continuation is the same

Slam bidding

You

♠ 8 6 5 4
♥ 2
♦ A 9 8 7
♣ A Q 6 2

Partner

♠ A K T 9 7
♥ K J 4 3
♦ K 3 2
♣ 3

Bidding:

You

P

3D (3S)

Partner

1S

4S

We pass, partner opens 1S and we invite by bidding 3D (Bergen 4 card support 10-12 points)

As we were a passed hand, partner shows no interest in slam and just bids game.

Slam bidding - Quantitative

You

♠ K 6 5

♥ J 6

♦ A K T 9 8

♣ A K J

Partner

♠ A 4 3

♥ K Q 4

♦ J 3 2

♣ Q 9 8 2

Bidding:

You

Partner

1C

1D

1NT

4NT

P

We hold a strong hand around 19 points, asking partner if she can bid slam. Because partner is a minimum opener, she refuses the invitation

Grand Slam Bidding

You

♠ K 5

♥ A K 8 4 3 2

♦ A K T 6 3

♣ void

Partner

♠ A

♥ Q 9 6

♦ Q J 7 4

♣ J 8 7 6 2

Friday 19/9/2025

Bidding:

You

2C

3H

4D

4NT

5D

6D

Partner

2NT

3S

4H

5C

5NT

7H

2NT = 9+ points (points but no good suit)

3S shows control

4D control, 4H no more control

5C response shows 1 or 4 key cards

5D Queen asking, 5NT yes but no other king

6D = if you have Queen of D bid 7

Grand Slam Bidding

You

♠ A Q T 9 7
♥ A K T 3
♦ Q 7
♣ K J

Partner

♠ J 5
♥ J 8 7 5 2
♦ A K J 8 3
♣ Q

Thursday 2/10/2025

Bidding:

You

Partner

	1H	
2NT	3C	2NT = Jacoby, 3C shortage (control)
3S	4D	3S & 4D control
4NT	5C	5C response shows 1 or 4 key cards
5D	5H	5D Queen asking, 5H no
6H		66% chance that queen drops

Slam Bidding

North

♠ Q T 7 6 5 2

♥ A T 7 6

♦ Q 2

♣ 7

Hand 1 Tue 23/9/2025

Dealer West

♠ 3

♥ K Q 8

♦ A K J 9 8 6 3

♣ K 9

♠ A K 9 4

♥ 5 3 2

♦ T 7

♣ A Q 6 2

♠ J 8

♥ J 9 4

♦ 5 4

♣ J T 8 5 4 3

South

Slam Bidding

North (Dealer)

Hand 2 Joan Butts

♠ A K Q J 8 4

♥ K J 2

♦ Q

♣ A J 8

♠ 5

♥ A T 8 7 6 4

♦ 9 3

♣ K 6 5 3

♠ T 9 3

♥ 5 3

♦ K J 4

♣ Q T 9 7 2

♠ 7 6 2

♥ Q 9

♦ A T 8 7 6 5 2

♣ 4

South

Slam Bidding

South

♠ T 8 6
♥ K 5 3
♦ 8 4
♣ A T 9 8 4

Hand 3 Mon 22/9/2025

Dealer: East

♠ A J 9
♥ Q J T 8 6
♦ K Q J 9
♣ K

♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ A
♦ A T 7 6 5 3
♣ Q 3

♠ K Q 3
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ 2
♣ J 7 6 5 2

North

Slam Bidding

East

♠ J 8 7
♥ A
♦ K J 7 5 2
♣ T 8 6 2

Hand 4 Fri 19/9/2025

Dealer: South

♠ 9 3
♥ Q 8 7 2
♦ T 6
♣ A Q 7 4 3

♠ A K Q 6
♥ K J T 4 3
♦ A 4
♣ K 5

♠ T 5 4 2
♥ 9 6 5
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ J 9

West

Slam Bidding

North

Hand 5 Fri 19/9/2025

Dealer: North

♠ J 9 3
♥ A Q 7 6 5
♦ A T 7 5 4
♣ void

♠ Q T 5 2
♥ J T 4
♦ K Q 9
♣ Q 9 7

♠ 8 7 4
♥ 3
♦ J 6 3
♣ K J T 6 4 3

♠ A K 6
♥ K 9 8 2
♦ 8 2
♣ A 8 5 2

South

Slam Bidding

North

♠ Q J T 9 4 3

♥ T

♦ 8 2

♣ A K 9 4

Hand 6 Fri 19/9/2025

Dealer : West

♠ K 5

♥ A K 8 4 3 2

♦ A K T 6 3

♣ void

♠ A

♥ Q 9 6

♦ Q J 7 4

♣ J 8 7 6 2

♠ 8 7 6 2

♥ J 7 5

♦ 9 5

♣ Q T 5 3

South

Slam Bidding

North

♠ 6
♥ J T 8 6
♦ K 8 6 3
♣ K Q 7 4

Hand 7

Dealer: East

♠ A J 9 7
♥ A Q 9 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ J 3

♠ K Q T 8 3
♥ K 5
♦ A 4
♣ A 9 6 5

♠ 5 4 2
♥ 7 4
♦ Q J T 5 2
♣ T 8 2

South

Slam Bidding

West

♠ 9 8 5 2

♥ 9 8 7 3

♦ 6 2

♣ A 5 2

Hand 8

Dealer: South

♠ A 7 4 3

♥ Q 6 5

♦ A J 9

♣ Q 9 7

♠ K Q 6

♥ A K 4

♦ K Q 4 3

♣ K J 8

♠ J T

♥ J T 2

♦ T 8 7 5

♣ T 6 4 3

East

Slam Bidding

East

♠ 9 8 7 5

♥ J 8 5 3

♦ Q

♣ J T 4 3

Hand 9

Dealer: North

♠ A 6 4

♥ K Q 7 4 2

♦ K 9 8 3

♣ 7

♠ 3 2

♥ 9

♦ A J T 7 4 2

♣ A K Q 5

♠ K Q J T

♥ A T 6

♦ 6 5

♣ 9 8 6 2

West

Slam Bidding

North

♠ Q T 2
♥ J 7 6 3
♦ J 9 8 6
♣ T 8

Hand 10

Dealer: West

♠ A 8 6 5 3
♥ K 9 4
♦ Q 7 2
♣ A 5

♠ K 7
♥ A Q T 8 5 2
♦ 3
♣ K Q 4 3

♠ J 9 4
♥ void
♦ A K T 5 4
♣ J 9 7 6 2

South

Slam Bidding

North

♠ A K Q
♥ J
♦ A K J 9 7
♣ K J 8 5

Hand 11

Dealer: North

♠ T 7 5 3
♥ T 9 8 5 3
♦ 6 2
♣ 9 2

♠ 9 8 6 4
♥ A K 4 2
♦ Q T 8 5
♣ 4

♠ J 2
♥ Q 7 6
♦ 4 3
♣ A Q T 7 6 3

South