

ROMAN KEY CARD

Introduction

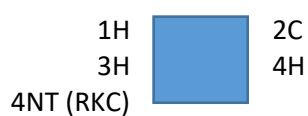
The advantage of Roman Key Card (RKC) is that you get a lot more information about partners hand.

First of all 4NT asks partner how many KeyCards they have. A “KeyCard” is any ace and the King of trumps; so there are 5 keycards in all. Ie if the agreed suit is Hearts the the 4 aces + the K of H make up the five keycards. Can you see that the operative word is “Agreed”

Agreed Fits-

1. Direct Support

ie



2. Understood Support

Some people play the last bid suit is the trump suit



The Answers to 4NT

5C – 1 or 4 KeyCards

5D – 3 or 0 KeyCards

5H – 2 and no Q of Trumps

5S – 2 + Queen of Trumps

To Go to slam you need at least 4 Keycards + Q of Trumps

NB with the first two responses you do not know about Q. So how do you find out?

Examples (North the opening bidder):

(The bidding sequences take a simplistic approach up to the 4NT bid. The examples concentrate solely on the use of RKCB).

North	♠ A ♥ A87654 ♦ K6 ♣ AK87	♠ AJ1098 ♥ Q ♦ KQ3 ♣ AK82	♠ AJ1098 ♥ K ♦ KQ3 ♣ AK82	♠ AQ7643 ♥ AKQ7 ♦ 8 ♣ AK	♠ AQ87432 ♥ 9 ♦ AK106 ♣ A
South	♠ K5 ♥ KJ32 ♦ QJ54 ♣ 652	♠ KQ75 ♥ J1043 ♦ A62 ♣ 54	♠ K7652 ♥ AJ43 ♦ 76 ♣ 54	♠ 1095 ♥ 83 ♦ KQ952 ♣ Q74	♠ 965 ♥ AK854 ♦ 52 ♣ K54

- 1♥ - 3♥ - 4NT (hearts) – 5♣ (1 ace or ♥K) – 6♥
- 1♠ - 3♠ - 4NT (spades)– 5♠ (2 aces/♠K and ♠Q) – 6♠
- Exactly the same sequence as (b). In response, the 5-card spade suit is the equivalent to holding the ♠Q
- 2♣ - 2♦ - 2♠ - 3♠ - 4NT (spades) – 5♦ (0 or 3, obviously 0) - 5♣. Two key-cards are missing – at best the slam depends on a finesse.
- 1♠ - 2♥ - 3♠ - 4♠ - 4NT(spades) - 5♣ (1 or 4, obviously 1) - 6♠. With one key-card missing the grand slam is not attempted.

KeyCard Gerber (using 4C as the asking Bid)

This Convention should only be used after a NT bid. It is an ace ask but as there are no trumps there is no K of Trumps therefor the answers are slightly different.

The first two levels up are the same as RKC.

4D says 1 or 4 and 4H says 3 or 0.

4S says 2 and Minimum.

4NT says 2 Maximum.

Most bids of NT are within a small range 2NT for example is 21-22 if this was the bid then 21 would be minimum and 22 would be maximum.

Hint

There is no need to rush into asking for Aces/Keycards. Openers second bid will often tell you more about his hand ie the strength. Your bid is forcing so give opener the opportunity to talk to you.

And you do not need to rush into an Ace ask.