

ROMAN KEYCARD BLACKWOOD

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In auctions where a **trump suit has been agreed** 4NT is Roman Keycard Blackwood. It asks partner how many of the five keycards he holds.

- The five keycards are the **four aces and the king of trump**

There are two versions of RKC: 3014 and 1430; which you use depends solely on partnership agreement. The reversed 5♣/5♦ bids is the only difference between the two.

RKC 3014 (0314)	RKC 1430
5♣ = 0 or 3 keycards	5♣ = 1 or 4 keycards
5♦ = 1 or 4 keycards	5♦ = 0 or 3 keycards
5♥ = 2 keycards without trump queen	5♥ = 2 keycards without trump queen
5♠ = 2 keycards with trump queen	5♠ = 2 keycards with trump queen
<p>Optional Void Showing Responses:</p> <p>5NT = even number of keycards (0-2-4) + unspecified void</p> <p>6 of a lower ranking suit = odd number of keycards (1-3) + void in bid suit</p> <p>6 of agreed suit = odd number of keycards (1-3) + void in higher ranking suit</p>	

- **QUEEN ASK:** after a 5♣/♦ response to 4NT, the 4NT bidder can ask for the trump queen by making the **cheapest bid that is not 5 of the agreed suit**.
 - Without the queen, responder signs-off at the lowest level of the trump suit
 - With the trump queen, responder:
 - Jumps to 6 of the agreed suit without a king or side suit 'extra'
 - Bids the cheapest side suit where he has the king
 - Bids 5NT without a king but with a useful extra side suit value

- **KING ASK:** If the partnership holds all five keycards and the trump queen, the original 4NT bidder can ask for kings by bidding 5NT. This is a grand slam try.
 - **Preferred response: Specific Kings.** Responder answers by bidding the cheapest side suit in which he has the king. Without a side king, responder returns to the trump suit. *Responder does not have to show a king that ranks above the trump suit.*
 - **Alternate response: Number of Kings.** Responder shows how many of the three side suit kings he holds (the trump king is excluded). 6♣ = 0, 6♦ = 1, etc.

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