

KickBack KeyCard Ask

KickBack KeyCard uses the 1st Step above 4Trump as the Ask (Not always 4NT) which allows room to explore slam possibilities in every Suit

Asker Asks:

1st Step^{above} 4Trump = KeyCard Ask *5KeyCards
4Aces + K Trump*

Responder Answers:



Old McPartner had a KeyCard



14 1or4 KeyCards

30 3or0 KeyCards

2 2or5 KeyCards NO QTump

Rollover to 2or5 KeyCards & QTump

E anEvenNumber of KeyCards & an AmbiguousVoid

O anOddNumber of KeyCards & a Void in Bid Suit

asker

1st Step^{above} 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask *SlamTry*
Trump agreed or jump; if it can be KickBack, it is KickBack

responder

1st Step = 1or4 KeyCards

2nd Step = 3or0 KeyCards

3rd Step = 2or5 KeyCards NO TrumpQ

4th Step = 2or5 KeyCards & TrumpQ or 10card Trump fit *RollOver to QueenAsk*

5th Step = 0or2or4 KeyCards & Ambiguous Void *Priority*

AnySideSuit above 5th Step = 1or3or5 KeyCards & Void in BidSuit *Priority*

LightBlue = Post Alert after the Bidding is over, Tell the Opps that there has been a KeyCard Bidding Sequence

Norman Pestaina's [Kickback: A Better Control-Asking System](#)

Eddie Kantar's [Roman Keycard Blackwood](#)

after the initial Ask:

asker

1stStep above **4T** Trump = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

1stStep or 2ndStep = **1or4 OR 3or0** KeyCards *Nothing about the TrumpQ*

asker

1stStep = **4or5** combined KeyCards, **TrumpQ** Ask

1stStep above **5T** Trump = **5** combined KeyCards, **SpecificKing** Ask **GrandSlamTry**

OtherSuit above **5T** Trump = **5** combined KeyCards, **HelpSuit** Ask **GrandSlamTry**

5or6or7 Trump = **ToPlay**

6or7NT = **ToPlay**

1stStep above **4T** Trump = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

3rdStep or 4th = **2or5** KeyCards **NO** TrumpQ **OR 2or5** KeyCards **TrumpQ**

asker

1stStep above **5T** Trump = **5** combined KeyCards, **SpecificKing** Ask **GrandSlamTry**

OtherSuit above **5T** Trump = **5** combined KeyCards, **HelpSuit** Ask **GrandSlamTry**

5or6or7 Trump = **ToPlay**

6or7NT = **ToPlay**

1stStep above **4T** Trump = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

5thStep = **0or2or4** KeyCards & **Ambiguous Void** *Priority*

asker

1stStep = **Void** Ask **GrandSlamTry**

2ndStep = **TrumpQ** Ask **GrandSlamTry** *1st Step after a splinter*

OtherSuit above **5T** Trump (with room) = **5** combined KeyCards, **HelpSuit** Ask **GrandSlamTry**

6or7 Trump = **ToPlay**

6or7NT = **ToPlay**

1stStep above **4T** Trump = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

AnySideSuit above **5thStep** = **Void** *Priority*

asker

1stStep (with room) = **TrumpQ** Ask **GrandSlamTry**

OtherSuit above **5T** Trump (with room) = **5** combined KeyCards, **HelpSuit** Ask **GrandSlamTry**

6or7 Trump = **ToPlay**

6or7NT = **ToPlay**

TrumpQueen Ask

to avoid Losing a Trump Trick

with an ⑧card Fit **AKxxx** opposite **xxx** = 1.68% *ain't gonna happen*

with a ⑨card Fit **AKxxx** opposite **xxxx** = 40%

with a ⑨card Fit **AKxxx** opposite **Jxxx** = 53%

with a ⑨card Fit **AKxxx** opposite **Jxxx or AKJxx** opposite **xxxx** = 53%

with a ⑨card Fit **AKJTx** opposite **xxxx** = 58%

with a ⑩card Fit **AKxxxx** opposite **xxxx** = 78% *yep*

Asker Asks:

1stStep above **4Trump** = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

1stStep or 2ndStep = **1or4 OR 3or0 KeyCards**

asker

1stStep = **4or5combined KeyCards, TrumpQ Ask**

responder

5Trump = **NO TrumpQ**

Suit(NT surrogate for Asking Strain) = **TrumpQ, Cheapest Biddable K Rollover to King Ask**

Lowest NT = **TrumpQ, NO Ks, Ambiguous 3rdRoundControl SideSuit**

6Trump = **TrumpQ, NO K, NO 3rdRoundControl SideSuit rare**

7Trump = **TrumpQ, All3 Ks**

asker

1stStep above **4Trump** = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

1stStep or 2ndStep = **1or4 OR 3or0 KeyCards**

asker

1stStep = **4or5combined KeyCards, TrumpQ Ask**

responder

Suit = **TrumpQ, Cheapest Biddable K Rollover to King Ask**

asker

NewSuitbelow 6Trump = **Ask for King in ThatSuit the Asker remains the Asker**

6or7 Trump = **ToPlay**

asker

1stStep above **4**Trump = **KickBack** **KeyCard** **Ask** *SlamTry*

responder

1stStep or **2ndStep** = **1**or**4** **OR** **3**or**0** **KeyCards**

asker

1stStep = **4**or**5**combined **KeyCards**, **TrumpQ** **Ask**

responder

Suit = **TrumpQ**, **Cheapest** **Biddable** **K** *Rollover to King Ask*

asker

NewSuitbelow **6**Trump = **Ask** for **King** in **ThatSuit** *the Asker remains the Asker*

responder

6 Trump = *ToPlay I do NOT have that King*

7 Trump = *ToPlay I do have that King*



1stStep above **4**Trump = **KickBack** **KeyCard** **Ask** *SlamTry*

responder

5thStep = **0**or**2**or**4** **KeyCards** & **Ambiguous** **Void** *Priority*

asker

1stStep = **Void** **Ask** *GrandSlamTry*

responder

VoidSuit

asker

1stStep = **4**combined **KeyCards**, **TrumpQ** **Ask**

responder

6 Trump = **NO** **TrumpQ** *ToPlay*

7 Trump = **TrumpQ** *ToPlay*



SpecificKing Ask

to avoid Losing a Trump Trick

with an ⑧card Fit **Axxxx** opposite **xxx** = 0.003% *ain't gonna happen*

with a ⑨card Fit **Axxxx** opposite **xxxx** or **Axxxx** opposite **xxxx** = 0.05% *ain't gonna happen*

with a ⑩card Fit **Axxxxx** opposite **xxxx** = 4.33% *ain't gonna happen*

with a ⑪card Fit **Axxxxx** opposite **xxxxx** = 52% *maybe*

with a ⑫card Fit **Axxxxx** opposite **xxxxxx** = 100% *yep*

asker
1stStep above 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask **SlamTry**

responder
1stStep or 2ndStep or 3rdStep or 4thStep

asker
1stStep above 5Trump = 5combined KeyCards, SpecificKing Ask **GrandSlamTry** *Excluding Trump King*

responder
6 Trump = **NO Kings ToPlay**
Suit = 1or2 Kings (Cheapest Biddable K) *Bypassing a Suit denies that King*

Raise Asking Strain = ⑧combined Trump, 3 Kings **Choice of GrandSlam**

7 Trump = ⑨orMore combined Trump, 3 Kings **ToPlay**

or SourceOfTrix or Substantial Extra Values

asker
1stStep above 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask **SlamTry**

responder
1stStep or 2ndStep or 3rdStep or 4thStep

asker
1stStep above 5Trump = 5combined KeyCards, SpecificKing Ask **GrandSlamTry**

responder
Suit = Cheapest Biddable K *Bypassing a Suit denies that King*

asker
Suit below 6 Trump = SpecificKing Ask *the Asker remains the Asker*

6or7 Trump = **ToPlay**

asker
1stStep above 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask **SlamTry**

responder
1stStep or 2ndStep or 3rdStep or 4thStep

asker
1stStep above 5Trump = 5combined KeyCards, SpecificKing Ask **GrandSlamTry**

responder
Suit = Cheapest Biddable K *Bypassing a Suit denies that King*

asker
Suit below 6 Trump = SpecificKing Ask *the Asker remains the Asker*

responder
6 Trump = **ToPlay** *I do NOT have that King*

7 Trump = **ToPlay** *I DO have that King*

Help Suit Ask

Grand Slam try; partnership has all 5 Key Cards & Trump Q

Note: this is in Lieu of the Trump Q Ask & the K Ask

1st Step above 4 Trump = Kick Back Key Card Ask *Slam Try*

responder

1st Step or 2nd Step or 3rd Step or 4th Step or 5th Step With Room or Odd & Void With Room

asker

Other Suit above 5 Trump = 5 combined Key Cards, Help Suit Ask *Grand Slam Try*

Not Trump Q Ask & Not King Ask

responder

6 Trump = *Denies* 3rd Round Control

Raise = Qx... or Better Suit *High Card*

7 Trump = ① or ② Suit *Shortness*

⇒ *Optional* ⇒ *Recommended*

responder

6 Trump = *Denies* 3rd Round Control

1st Step (NOT Trump) = 3rd Round Control = xx, Qx(x), Aqx, Ax *High Card Or Shortness*

2nd Step (NOT Trump) = 2nd Round Control = Kxx... *High Card*

3rd (NOT Trump) = 2nd & 3rd Round Control = Kx *High Card & Shortness*

4th (NOT Trump) = 2nd & 3rd Round Control = KQ... *High Card & High Card*

7 Trump = x *Shortness*

Surrogates

Responder substitute **Nt** for **KickBack Asking Suit**

♠ Trump

NO surrogates

♥ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♠)	Pass	?	Pass

possible Responses

surrogate for Asking Strain

1 st Step(4NT)	1or4 KeyCards
2 nd Step(5♣)	3or0 KeyCards
3 rd Step(5♦)	2or5 KeyCards NO TrumpQ
4 th Step(5♥)	2or5 KeyCards & TrumpQ or 10card Trump fit
5 th Step(5♠)	0or2or4 KeyCards & Ambiguous Void <i>Priority</i>
5NT	♠Void (Suit ^{above} 5 st Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>
6♣	♣Void (Suit ^{above} 5 st Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>
6♦	♦Void (Suit ^{above} 5 st Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>

♦ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♥)	Pass	?	Pass

possible Responses

1 st Step(4♠)	1or4 KeyCards
2 nd Step(4NT)	3or0 KeyCards
3 rd Step(5♣)	2or5 KeyCards NO TrumpQ
4 th Step(5♦)	2or5 KeyCards & TrumpQ or 10card Trump fit
5 th Step(5♥)	0or2or4 KeyCards & Ambiguous Void <i>Priority</i>
5♠	♠Void (Suit above 5 th Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>
5NT	♥Void (Suit above 5 th Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>
6♣	♣Void (Suit above 5 th Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>

surrogate for Asking Strain

♣ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♦)	Pass	?	Pass

possible Responses

1 st Step(4♥)	1or4 KeyCards
2 nd Step(4♠)	3or0 KeyCards
3 rd Step(4NT)	2or5 KeyCards NO TrumpQ
4 th Step(5♣)	2or5 KeyCards & TrumpQ or 10card Trump fit
5 th Step(5♦)	0or2or4 KeyCards & Ambiguous Void <i>Priority</i>
5♥	♥Void (Suit above 5 th Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>
5♠	♠Void (Suit above 5 th Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>
5NT	♦Void (Suit above 5 th Step) 1or3 KeyCards <i>Priority</i>

surrogate for Asking Strain

surrogates after Queen Ask

♠ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4NT)	Pass	1 or 4 (5♣)	Pass
Queen Ask(5♦)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

Q, No Ks

- 5♥ Trump Q, Shows K♥
- 5♠ Denies Trump Q
- 5NT Trump Q, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3rd Round Control Side Suit
- 6♣ Trump Q, Denies K♥, Shows K♣
- 6♦ Trump Q, Denies K♥, Denies K♣, Shows K♦
- 6♠ Trump Q, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3rd Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♠ Trump Q, Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix

♠ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4NT)	Pass	3 or 0 (5♦)	Pass
Queen Ask(5♥)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

Q, No Ks

- 5♠ Denies Trump Q
- 5NT Trump Q, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3rd Round Control Side Suit
- 6♣ Trump Q, Shows K♣
- 6♦ Trump Q, Denies K♣, Shows K♦
- 6♥ Trump Q, Denies K♣, Denies K♦, Shows K♥
- 6♠ Trump Q, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3rd Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♠ Trump Q, Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix

Surrogates

♥Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♠)	Pass	1or4(4NT)	Pass
Queen Ask(5♣)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

Q, No Ks

- 5♦ TrumpQ, Shows K♦
- 5♥ Denies TrumpQ
- 5♠ TrumpQ, Denies K♦, Shows K♠
- 5NT TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3rd Round Control Side Suit
- 6♣ TrumpQ, Denies K♦, Denies K♠, Shows K♣
- 6♥ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3rd Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♥ TrumpQ, Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix

♥Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♠)	Pass	3or0(5♣)	Pass
Queen Ask(5♦)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

Q, No Ks

- 5♥ Denies TrumpQ
- 5♠ TrumpQ, Shows K♠
- 5NT TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3rd Round Control Side Suit
- 6♣ TrumpQ, Denies K♠, Shows K♣
- 6♦ TrumpQ, Denies K♠, Shows K♣
- 6♥ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3rd Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♥ TrumpQ, Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix

♦ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♥)	Pass	1or4(4♠)	Pass
Queen Ask(4NT)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

Q, No Ks

- 5♣ TrumpQ, Shows K♣
- 5♦ Denies TrumpQ
- 5♥ TrumpQ, Denies K♣, Shows K♥
- 5♠ TrumpQ, Denies K♣, Denies K♥, Shows K♠
- 5NT TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3rd Round Control Side Suit
- 6♦ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3rd Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♦ TrumpQ, Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix

♦ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♥)	Pass	3or0(4NT)	Pass
Queen Ask(5♣)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

Q, No Ks

- 5♦ Denies TrumpQ
- 5♥ TrumpQ, Shows K♥
- 5♠ TrumpQ, Denies K♥, Shows K♠
- 5NT TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3rd Round Control Side Suit
- 6♣ TrumpQ, Denies K♥, Denies K♠, Shows K♣
- 6♦ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3rd Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♦ TrumpQ, Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix

♣ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♦)	Pass	1or4(4♥)	Pass
Queen Ask(4♠)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

Q, No Ks

- 4NT TrumpQ, *Denies Any* Ks, *Shows* 3rd Round Control Side Suit
- 5♣ *Denies* TrumpQ
- 5♦ TrumpQ, *Shows* K♦
- 5♥ TrumpQ, *Denies* K♦, *Shows* K♥
- 5♠ TrumpQ, *Denies* K♦, *Denies* K♥, *Shows* K♠
- 6♣ TrumpQ, *Denies Any* Ks, *Denies* 3rd Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♣ TrumpQ, *Shows* All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ *or SourceOfTrix*

♣ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♦)	Pass	3or0(4♠)	Pass
Queen Ask(4NT)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

Q, No Ks

- 5♣ *Denies* TrumpQ
- 5♦ TrumpQ, *Shows* K♦
- 5♥ TrumpQ, *Denies* K♦, *Shows* K♥
- 5♠ TrumpQ, *Denies* K♦, *Denies* K♥, *Shows* K♠
- 5NT TrumpQ, *Denies Any* Ks, *Shows* 3rd Round Control Side Suit
- 6♣ TrumpQ, *Denies Any* Ks, *Denies* 3rd Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♣ TrumpQ, *Shows* All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ *or SourceOfTrix*

♠ Trump
None

♥ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
Key Card Ask(4♠)	Pass	Any	Pass
King Ask(5♠)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

surrogate for Asking Strain

- 5NT Shows K♠
- 6♣ Denies K♠, Shows K♣
- 6♦ Denies K♠, Denies K♣, Shows K♦
- 6♥ Denies Any Ks
- 7♥ Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix

♦ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
Key Card Ask(4♥)	Pass	Any	Pass
King Ask(5♥)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

surrogate for Asking Strain

- 5♠ Shows K♠
- 5NT Denies K♠, Shows K♥
- 6♣ Denies K♠, Denies K♥, Shows K♣
- 6♦ Denies Any Ks
- 7♦ Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix

♣ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...
KeyCard Ask(4♦)	Pass	Any	Pass
King Ask(5♦)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

- 5♥ *Shows K♥*
- 5♠ *Denies K♥, Shows K♠*
- 5NT *Denies K♥, Denies K♠, Shows K♦*
- 6♣ *Denies Any Ks*
- 7♣ *Shows All 3 Side Suit Ks♣ or SourceOfTrix*

surrogate for Asking Strain