

# KickBack KeyCard Ask

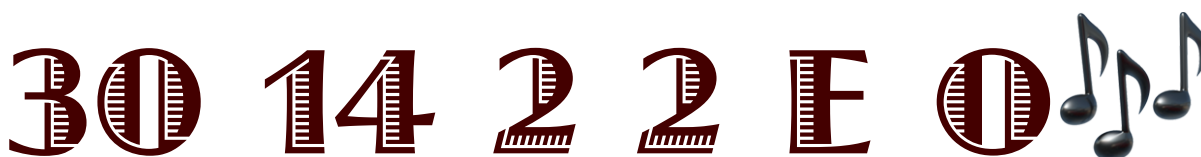
KickBack KeyCard uses the 1<sup>st</sup> Step above 4Trump as the Ask (Not always 4NT) which allows room to explore slam possibilities in every Suit

Asker Asks:

1<sup>st</sup>Step<sup>above</sup> 4Trump = KeyCardAsk *5KeyCards  
4Aces + K Trump*

Responder Answers:

 Old McPartner had a Key



**30** 3or0 KeyCards

**14** 1or4 KeyCards

**2** 2or5 KeyCards **NO** QTrump

**2** 2or5 KeyCards & QTrump

**E** AnEvenNumber of KeyCards & an AmbiguousVoid

**0** AnOddNumber of KeyCards & a Void in Bid Suit

asker

1<sup>st</sup>Step<sup>above</sup> 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask *SlamTry*  
Trump agreed or jump; if it can be KickBack, it is KickBack

responder

1<sup>st</sup>Step = 3or0 KeyCards

2<sup>nd</sup>Step = 1or4 KeyCards

3<sup>rd</sup>Step = 2or5 KeyCards **NO** TrumpQ

4<sup>th</sup>Step = 2or5 KeyCards & TrumpQ or 10card Trump fit

5<sup>th</sup>Step = 0or2or4 KeyCards & Ambiguous Void *Priority*

AnySideSuit above 5<sup>th</sup>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, The Asker Asks:

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **4<sup>T</sup>Trump** = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

**1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step** = **3<sup>or</sup>0 OR 1<sup>or</sup>4 KeyCards**

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** = **4<sup>or</sup>5combined KeyCards, TrumpQ Ask**

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **5<sup>T</sup>Trump** = **5combined KeyCards, SpecificKing Ask GrandSlamTry**

**OtherSuit** above **5<sup>T</sup>Trump** = **5combined KeyCards, 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControlAsk GrandSlamTry**

**5<sup>or</sup>6<sup>or</sup>7 Trump** = **ToPlay**

**6<sup>or</sup>7NT** = **ToPlay**

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**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **4<sup>T</sup>Trump** = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

**3<sup>rd</sup>Step or 4<sup>th</sup>** = **2<sup>or</sup>5 KeyCards NO TrumpQ OR 2<sup>or</sup>5 KeyCards TrumpQ**

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **5<sup>T</sup>Trump** = **5combined KeyCards, SpecificKing Ask GrandSlamTry**

**OtherSuit** above **5<sup>T</sup>Trump** = **5combined KeyCards, 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControlAsk GrandSlamTry**

**5<sup>or</sup>6<sup>or</sup>7 Trump** = **ToPlay**

**6<sup>or</sup>7NT** = **ToPlay**

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**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **4<sup>T</sup>Trump** = **KickBack KeyCard Ask SlamTry**

responder

**5<sup>th</sup> or AnySideSuit** above **5<sup>th</sup>Step** = **Void Priority**

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step (with room)** = **TrumpQ Ask GrandSlamTry**

**OtherSuit** above **5<sup>T</sup>Trump (with room)** = **5combined KeyCards, 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControlAsk GrandSlamTry**

**6<sup>or</sup>7 Trump** = **ToPlay**

**6<sup>or</sup>7NT** = **ToPlay**

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# 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:

1<sup>st</sup>Step<sup>above</sup> 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask *SlamTry*

responder

1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step = 3or0 OR 1or4 KeyCards

asker

1<sup>st</sup>Step = 4or5combined KeyCards, TrumpQ Ask

responder

5Trump = NO TrumpQ

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

Raise Asking Suit = TrumpQ, NO Ks, Ambiguous 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControl SideSuit

6Trump = TrumpQ, NO K, NO 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControl SideSuit *rare*

7Trump = TrumpQ, All3 Ks

asker

1<sup>st</sup>Step<sup>above</sup> 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask *SlamTry*

responder

1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step = 3or0 OR 1or4 KeyCards

asker

1<sup>st</sup>Step = 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

1<sup>st</sup>Step<sup>above</sup> 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask *SlamTry*

responder

1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step = 3or0 OR 1or4 KeyCards

asker

1<sup>st</sup>Step = 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*

responder

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

7 Trump = *ToPlay I do have that King*

## 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

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask **SlamTry**

responder

**Any**

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** 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**

.....

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask **SlamTry**

responder

**1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step or 3<sup>rd</sup>Step or 4<sup>th</sup>Step**

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above 5Trump = 5combined KeyCards, SpecificKing Ask **GrandSlamTry** *Excluding Trump King*

responder

**6** Trump = **NO** Kings **ToPlay**

.....

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask **SlamTry**

responder

**1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step or 3<sup>rd</sup>Step or 4<sup>th</sup>Step**

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** 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

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **4** Trump = **KickBack** **KeyCard** Ask **SlamTry**

responder

**1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step or 3<sup>rd</sup>Step or 4<sup>th</sup>Step**

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **5** Trump = **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*



asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **4** Trump = **KickBack** **KeyCard** Ask **SlamTry**

responder

**1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step or 3<sup>rd</sup>Step or 4<sup>th</sup>Step**

asker

**1<sup>st</sup>Step** above **5** Trump = **5combined** **KeyCards**, **SpecificKing** Ask **GrandSlamTry** *Excluding Trump King*

responder

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

**7** Trump = **9** or More combined Trump, **3** Kings **ToPlay**



# HelpSuit Ask

Grand Slam try; partnership has all 5 KeyCards & TrumpQ

Note: this is in Lieu of the TrumpQ Ask & the K Ask

1<sup>st</sup>Step<sup>above</sup> 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask *SlamTry*

responder

1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step or 3<sup>rd</sup>Step or 4<sup>th</sup>Step or 5<sup>th</sup>StepWithRoom or Odd&VoidWithRoom

asker

OtherSuit<sup>above</sup> 5Trump = 5combined KeyCards, 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControlAsk *GrandSlamTry*  
Not TrumpQ Ask & Not King Ask

responder

6 Trump = *Denies* 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControl

RaiseSuit = Qx...orBetterSuit *HighCard*

7 Trump = ①or②Suit *Shortness*

⇒Optional⇒ *Recommended*

1<sup>st</sup>Step<sup>above</sup> 4Trump = KickBack KeyCard Ask *SlamTry*

responder

1<sup>st</sup>Step or 2<sup>nd</sup>Step or 3<sup>rd</sup>Step or 4<sup>th</sup>Step or 5<sup>th</sup>StepWithRoom or Odd&VoidWithRoom

asker

OtherSuit<sup>above</sup> 5Trump = 5combined KeyCards, 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControlAsk *GrandSlamTry*  
Not TrumpQ Ask & Not King Ask

responder

6 Trump = *Denies* 3<sup>rd</sup>RoundControl

1<sup>st</sup>Step (NOT Trump) = 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control = xx, Qx(x), AQx, Ax *HighCard Or Shortness*

2<sup>nd</sup>Step (NOT Trump) = 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Control = Kxx... *HighCard*

3<sup>rd</sup> (NOT Trump) = 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control = Kx *HighCard & Shortness*

4<sup>th</sup> (NOT Trump) = 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control = KQ... *HighCard & HighCard*

7 Trump = x *Shortness*

surrogate for Asking Strain

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

♠ Trump

**NO** surrogates

♥ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...	...	...	...
<b>KeyCard Ask(4♠)</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>Pass</b>

possible Responses

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

surrogate for Asking Strain

♦ Trump

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

possible Responses

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

surrogate for Asking Strain



♣ Trump

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

possible Responses

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

surrogate for Asking Strain

surrogates after Queen Ask

♠ Trump

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

possible Responses

	5♥	TrumpQ, Shows K♥
	5♠	Denies TrumpQ
surrogate for Asking Strain	5Nt	TrumpQ, Denies K♥, Shows K♦
	6♣	TrumpQ, Denies K♥, Denies K♦, Shows K♣
Raise Asking Strain	6♦	TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit
	6♠	TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit <i>rare</i>
	7♠	TrumpQ, Shows K♥, Shows K♦, Shows K♣

♠ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...	...	...	...
KeyCard Ask(4Nt)	Pass	1or4(5♦)	Pass
Queen Ask(5♥)	Pass	?	

possible Responses

	5♠	Denies TrumpQ
surrogate for Asking Strain	5Nt	TrumpQ, Shows K♥
	6♣	TrumpQ, Denies K♥, Shows K♣
	6♦	TrumpQ, Denies K♥, Denies K♣, Shows K♦
Raise Asking Strain	6♥	TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit
	6♠	TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit <i>rare</i>
	7♠	TrumpQ, Shows K♥, Shows K♣, Shows K♣

Surrogates

## ♥ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...	...	...	...
<b>KeyCard Ask(4♠)</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>3or0(4NT)</b>	<b>Pass</b>
<b>Queen Ask(5♣)</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>?</b>	

### possible Responses

**5♦** TrumpQ, *Shows* K♦

**5♥** *Denies* TrumpQ

**5♠** TrumpQ, *Denies* K♦, *Shows* K♠

**5NT** TrumpQ, *Denies* K♦, *Denies* K♠, *Shows* K♣

**6♣** TrumpQ, *Denies Any* Ks, *Shows* 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit

**6♥** TrumpQ, *Denies Any* Ks, *Denies* 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit *rare*

**7♥** TrumpQ, *Shows* K♦, *Shows* K♠, *Shows* K♣

surrogate for Asking Strain

Raise Asking Strain

## ♥ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...	...	...	...
<b>KeyCard Ask(4♠)</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>1or4(5♣)</b>	<b>Pass</b>
<b>Queen Ask(5♦)</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>?</b>	

### possible Responses

**5♥** *Denies* TrumpQ

**5♠** TrumpQ, *Shows* K♠

**5NT** TrumpQ, *Denies* K♠, *Shows* K♦

**6♣** TrumpQ, *Denies* K♠, *Denies* K♦, *Shows* K♣

**6♦** TrumpQ, *Denies Any* Ks, *Shows* 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit

**6♥** TrumpQ, *Denies Any* Ks, *Denies* 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit *rare*

**7♥** TrumpQ, *Shows* K♦, *Shows* K♠, *Shows* K♣

surrogate for Asking Strain

Raise Asking Strain

## Surrogates

♦ Trump

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

possible Responses

Raise Asking Strain

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit
- 6♦ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♦ TrumpQ, Shows K♦, Shows K♠, Shows K♣

♦ Trump

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

possible Responses

surrogate for Asking Strain

Raise Asking Strain

- 5♦ Denies TrumpQ
- 5♥ TrumpQ, Shows K♥
- 5♠ TrumpQ, Denies K♥, Shows K♠
- 5NT TrumpQ, Denies K♥, Denies K♠, Shows K♣
- 6♣ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit
- 6♦ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit *rare*
- 7♦ TrumpQ, Shows K♥, Shows K♠, Shows K♣

♣ Trump

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

possible Responses

surrogate for Asking Strain

4NT TrumpQ, Shows K♠

5♣ Denies TrumpQ

5♦ TrumpQ, Denies K♠, Shows K♦

5♥ TrumpQ, Denies K♠, Denies K♦, Shows K♥

Raise Asking Strain

5♠ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit

6♣ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit rare

7♣ TrumpQ, Shows K♠, Shows K♦, Shows K♥

♣ Trump

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

possible Responses

5♣ Denies TrumpQ

5♦ TrumpQ, Shows K♦

5♥ TrumpQ, Denies K♦, Shows K♥

5♠ TrumpQ, Denies K♦, Denies K♥, Shows K♠

Raise Asking Strain

5NT TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Shows 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit

6♣ TrumpQ, Denies Any Ks, Denies 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Control Side Suit rare

7♣ TrumpQ, Shows K♠, Shows K♦, Shows K♥

Surrogates

♥ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...	...	...	...
KeyCard 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* K♠, *Shows* K♣, *Shows* K♦

♦ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...	...	...	...
KeyCard 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* K♠, *Shows* K♥, *Shows* K♣

♣ Trump

Asker	Opp	Responder	Opp
...	...	...	...
<b>KeyCard Ask(4♦)</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Any</b>	<b>Pass</b>
<b>King Ask(5♦)</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>?</b>	

possible Responses

surrogate for Asking Strain

- 5♥ *Shows* K♥
- 5♠ *Denies* K♥, *Shows* K♠
- 5Ntr *Denies* K♥, *Denies* K♠, *Shows* K♦
- 6♣ *Denies Any* Ks
- 7♣ *Shows* K♥, *Shows* K♠, *Shows* K♦