

Slam Bidding

There is a large bonus for bidding and making **Slam**

In order to bid Slam you need a combined

- 33 + points for a **Small Slam** (12 tricks)
- 37 + points for a **Grand Slam** (all 13 tricks)

For example, if partner opens and you have 20 points, you should consider reaching slam. The requirements for Slam are an 8 + card fit if you intend playing in a suit, or a long minor suit if you intend playing in No Trumps

You also need to know the number of **Controls** (Aces and Kings) that the partnership holds as you don't want to be in a Small Slam missing an Ace and a King, or in a Grand Slam missing an Ace; hence we need to introduce a new **Convention** which asks for Aces and Kings. This convention is known as **Gerber**, and is activated by a jump to 4♣ - which asks partner to tell you how many Aces they hold

Responses Gerber 4 ♣	
4 NT	Three Aces
4 ♠	Two Aces
4 ♥	One Ace
4 ♦	Zero or Four Aces

A subsequent bid of 5 ♣ can be used to ask for Kings

Responses Gerber 5 ♣	
5 NT	Three Kings
5 ♠	Two Kings
5 ♥	One King
5 ♦	Zero or Four Kings

Responses Blackwood 4 NT	
5 ♠	Three Aces
5 ♥	Two Aces
5 ♦	One Ace
5 ♣	Zero or Four Aces

If Gerber is unavailable (for example if the bidding has gone 1 ♠ – 4 ♠, and you have 19 points opposite your partner's 13, the convention known as **Blackwood** can be used. Here 4 NT acts as an Ace ask, and a subsequent bid of 5 NT acts as a King ask

The main problem with using Blackwood is that the responses are at a higher level of bidding

Examples

♠ A82	♠ KQ4	1 ♥	4♣ Gerber (With 19 points opposite an opening
♥ AK9862	♥ Q105	4♠	5♣
♦ 85	♦ AK93	5♥	6♥
♣ J5	♣ KQ3		

♠ AQJ108	♠ 532	1 ♠	4♠
♥ AQ	♥ KJ98	4NT	5♥
♦ K5	♦ AJ3	6♠	
♣ QJ54	♣ A83		

A bit risky as it requires either the spade or the the club finesse to work

♠ A2	♠ KQ2	-	1♦
♥ KQJ93	♥ A862	1♥	4♥ (this started a cue bidding sequence)
♦ 2	♦ QJ93	4♠	5♣
♣ QJ863	♣ AK	6♥	(the danger suit has been identified as diamonds and holding a singleton diamond slam can be bid)

Lesson 5

♠ AK82	♠ J1094	1♦	1♥
♥ AQJ4	♥ K752	4♥	4NT
♦ QJ42	♦ AK109	5♥	6♥
♣ 2	♣ 7		

♠ A74	♠ K952	1♣	1♥
♥ AK7	♥ J10543	2♣	2♦ (showing 5H and 4D)
♦ 7	♦ AK93	4♣*	4♥ (* Gerber)
♣ AQ8732	♣ -	5♥	6♥

The hand below was played 23/08/2011

♠ AKJ9	♠ 96	1♣	1♦
♥ AK3	♥ 52	1♠	3♦
♦ 84	♦ AKQ9765	3NT	4♣
♣ J865	♣ AK	4♠	5♣
		5♠	7NT

♠ AKQ743	♠ J95	2♣	2♥
♥ KQJ	♥ A1082	4♣	4♥
♦ A83	♦ 7	6♠	
♣ 8	♣ K6532		

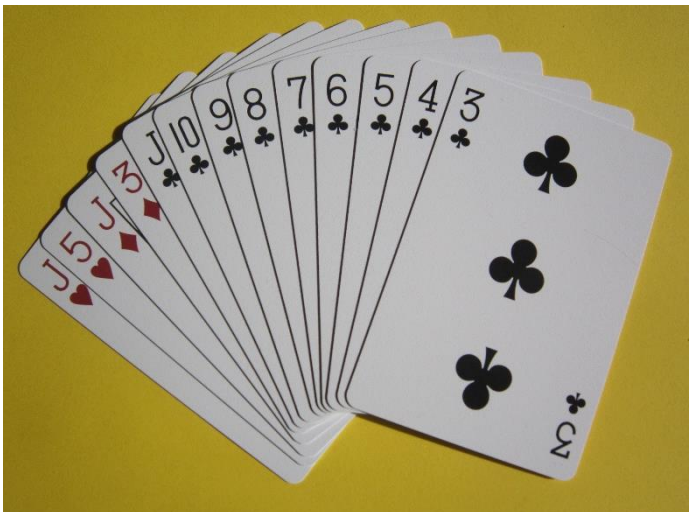
♠ Q9	♠ AJ1084	2♣	2♦
♥ AQ3	♥ 108	2NT	3♠
♦ AK3	♦ J	3NT	6♣
♣ AJ953	♣ Q8762		

(A 75% Slam. Requires either the spade finesse or the club finesse to work – both did)

Famous Bridge Hands #3a

Your Partner opened 7♠

Baron Munchausen (on your right) bid 7NT which was doubled by your Partner



Circle the suit you lead

Hearts

Diamonds

Clubs