

SLAMS - ACE ASKING

BEGINNERS – Just Use 4 CLUBS for Aces

- **Newer Players: Just Use 4C Ace Asking (Gerber).** 4D = 0 or 4. 4H = 1. 4S = 2. 4NT = 3.
- 4C Ace Asking: After Major & Minor Raises & after NT. Even if Raised suit is Clubs.
- **Use 4NT - as a Quantitative Invite to Slam when No Suit is Agreed upon.** You are asking partner to bid 6 with a Maximum hand for his previous bidding. Otherwise, he should Pass.
- **Learn Info Below a little Later,** But it doesn't hurt to read it now.

GENERAL

- **Use Ace Asking:** Only when you know for Sure that you are going to Slam (32+) & After you have investigated for a Fit. When you ask, you are merely checking to see if, by chance, you are Missing 2 Aces.
- **Ace Asking is Overrated:** If 32+, it is often just better to Blast to Slam. Very Rarely will you be missing 2 aces. The less bidding, the less chance for a Screw-up (misinterpreting 4C & 4NT), or for helping opponents.
- **Voids:** Don't Ace Ask with a Void, or with a poor Doubleton (no A or K) in an unbid suit. Cuebid Controls.
- **Use Quantitative Bids & Cuebid Controls (A, K, Stiff, Void):** When you are in the Slam Range.

4C GERBER - AFTER NOTRUMP

- 1NT– 4C (Gerber) Ace Asking: 4D = 0 (or 4). 4H = 1. 4S = 2. 4NT = 3.
- 1NT – 2C – 2H or 2S – 4C = Gerber with a Major fit.
- 1NT – 2C – 2H or 2S – 4NT = Quantitative without a fit. It's not Blackwood!!
- 1NT – 4NT = Quantitative. It's not Blackwood!!
- 1NT – 2D (Transfer) – 2H – 4C = Gerber with 6 Hearts (have at least 6-2 Heart fit).
- 1NT – 2D (Transfer) – 2H – 4NT = Only 5 Hearts & Quantitative. Not Aces. Answers:
 Pass with min & 2 hearts. Bid 5H with min & 3 hearts.
 Bid 6H with max & 3 hearts. Bid 6NT with max & 2 Hearts.
 No point in transferring & then ace asking, when you First need to learn if H fit or not.
- 1NT–2D(Transfer)–2H–5NT (Pick a Slam) = Bid 6H, 6NT, or a 5-card Minor (as an option).

4NT BLACKWOOD - AFTER AN AGREED MAJOR

- 4NT (Blackwood) Ace Asking: 5C = 0 (or 4). 5D = 1. 5H = 2. 5S = 3.
- Then 5NT = King Asking. Answers are the same.
- 1H–3H–4NT: 5C = 0 (or 4). 5D = 1. 5H = 2. 5S = 3.
- 1H–2C–2H–4NT (implied fit). Answers are the same.
- 1S–2C–2D–3S–4NT. Answers are the same.
- For 4NT to be Ace Ask, a suit has to be raised, preferenced, or a fit clearly implied.
- Can use Blackwood after a MINOR Fit - but you have little signoff room at the 5-level.