

Kickback Blackwood

When Hearts are Trumps, using 1430 Roman Keycard Blackwood

A user-friendly version presented by Mike Savage

When hearts are trumps and you ask for controls via 4NT, if partner's response is 5D, there is no way to find out if he does or doesn't have the trump queen in order to stop at 5H. Also, when hearts are trumps, if you ask for kings via 5NT, if you bid kings up-the-line as is expert practice nowadays, you can't show the spade king without going above 5H, the trump suit (unless you have special partnership agreements).

The solution? Simple—when hearts are trumps, reverse the meaning of 4S and 4NT. Use 4S as control asking and 4NT as a spade cue bid (or rarely, Exclusion Blackwood). This keeps the bidding one step lower and you can always find out about the trump queen below or at 5H and you can show the spade king below 6H. The disadvantage is that over a 4NT spade cue-bid, standard control asking is out.

After 4S (control asking) and a 4NT, 5C or 5D response, 5H by the asker is a sign-off. When asked for the trump queen, 5H *always* says "No," 5S by the asker *always* asks for kings and a 5NT response *always* shows the spade king. Other versions with slight differences exist, but none are easier on memory.

4S = 1430 RKC for hearts (reversing the usual meaning of 4S and 4NT)

4NT = Shows 1 or 4 controls

5C = Asks for the trump queen

5D = Shows the trump queen and no kings (can be asked for specific queens)

5H = Denies the trump queen

5NT = Shows the trump queen and the spade king

6C = Shows the trump queen and the club king

6D = Shows the trump queen and the diamond king

5S = Asks for kings

5NT = Shows the spade king

6C = Shows the club king

6D = Shows the diamond king

5C = Shows 3 or 0 controls

5D = Asks for the trump queen

5H = Denies the trump queen

5S = Shows the trump queen and no kings (can be asked for specific queens)

5NT = Shows the trump queen and the spade king

6C = Shows the trump queen and the club king

6D = Shows the trump queen and the diamond king

5S = Asks for kings

5NT = Shows the spade king

6C = Shows the club king

6D = Shows the diamond king

5D = Shows 2 controls and denies the heart queen

5S = Asks for kings

5NT = Shows the spade king

6C = Shows the club king

6D = Shows the diamond king

5H = Shows 2 controls *and* the heart queen

5S = Asks for kings

5NT = Shows the spade king

6C = Shows the club king

6D = Shows the diamond king

4NT = Spade cuebid (if a jump, it *could* be used as Exclusion Blackwood—control asking w/spade void).