

# Slam Bidding

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**Ace Asking, Control Bidding, Italian Style Cue Bidding**

reference:

<http://home.comcast.net/~kwbridge/slams.htm>

Ken Rexford "Cuebidding at Bridge"

# Slam Bidding

What does it take?

- \* **Massive HCP/Playing Strength**
  - \* 33 total points for 12 tricks (small slam)
  - \* 37 total points for 13 tricks (grand slam)
  - \* 12 losers for 12 tricks (small slam)
  - \* 11 losers for 13 tricks (grand slam)
- \* **Distributional fit reduces HCP requirement**
  - \* double fit with partner (high cards work together)
  - \* extra trumps (each one is an extra trick)
  - \* cooperating singletons (each one saves 6 HCPs)

# Slam Bidding

## Ace Asking

- \* Use Blackwood with a suit fit
- \* Use Gerber over NT
- \* 1430, RKC, Kickback, Minorwood, etc.
- \* Use ace asking bids only when the total number is all you need to know
  - \* Never use with a void
  - \* Never use with two fast losers in an unbid suit
  - \* Never use when the answer would take you too high

# Slam Bidding

## Jacoby 2NT Example

- \* You hold: ♠ KTxx ♥ Ax ♦ Qxx ♣ KQxx  
Partner1: ♠ AQJxx ♥ Txx ♦ AKxx ♣ x  
Partner2: ♠ AQJxx ♥ x ♦ AKxx ♣ Txx
- \* Opponents passing, Partner1 opens:  
1♠-2NT!- 3♣!-???
- \* "All, or nothing at all"  
Ace or nothing in partner's singleton
- \* With partner1: ♣'s wasted, sign off, 4♠
- \* With partner2: bid the 50% slam

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## Minorwood Example

- \* You hold: ♠ x ♥ Kx ♦ QJxxxxx ♣ AKx  
Partner: ♠ Txx ♥ AQJx ♦ AKxx ♣ Tx
- \* (Opponents overcalling), Partner opens:  
1 ♦ (1 ♠) 2 ♦! (2 ♠) 3 ♥ (P) ???
- \* Your only target is the ♦ game/slam  
With no 2 loser suit, bid 4 ♦ Minorwood
- \* Partner responds 4 ♠, sign off in 5 ♦!  
Partner, with 3 KEY cards,  
is obligated to bid on to 6 ♦

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## Double Fit Example

- \* You hold: ♠ x ♥ Jxxx ♦ AKxxx ♣ Axx  
Partner: ♠ Ax ♥ AQTxx ♦ Qxxx ♣ Qx
- \* Opponents passing, Partner opens:  
1♥-2♦- 3♦-3♥- 3♠-???
- \* All you care about is trump control;  
1430 is your bidding tool:  
...-4NT- 5♠-6♥
- \* 50% slam with just 26 HCPs! Depends on  
only ♥K, made possible by the double fit

# Slam Bidding

## Control Bidding (Standard Agreement)

- \* After suit agreement is reached, a new suit at or above the game level, is a control bid showing a side ace
- \* If partner can cooperate, he shows a side ace or returns to the trump suit
- \* After aces are shown, kings can be shown
- \* Bypassing a suit denies that control
- \* New suit below game is either a help suit game try OR an advance control bid

# Slam Bidding

## Control Bidding Example

- \* You hold: ♠ KQx ♥ Axx ♦ Jxxxx ♣ Tx  
Partner: ♠ AJ ♥ xx ♦ AKQx ♣ Axxxx
- \* Opponents passing, Partner opens:  
1♣-1♦- 2♦-2♥- 2♠-3♠- 4♣-???
- \* All you care about is trump control;  
Minorwood is your bidding tool:  
...-4♦- 4♥-4♠- 6♦
- \* In the 2004 Springgold, neither team found this lay down slam



# Slam Bidding

## Italian Cue Bidding

- \* In casual partnerships, Italian Cue Bidding means bidding aces and kings up the line
- \* You hold: ♠ Kxx ♥ Axxxx ♦ Ax ♣ AJx  
Partner: ♠ AQTx ♥ KQJx ♦ x ♣ KQTx
- \* Opponents passing, partner opens:  
1♣-1♥- 2♠-3♥- 4♥-???
- \* Standard Auction: 4♥-4NT- 5♠-5NT-  
6♣-6♥
- \* Italian Auction: 4♥-4♠- 4NT-5♦-  
7♥

# Slam Bidding

## Italian Cue Bidding (Expert Level)

- \* After game force & suit agreement:
  - \* Cue bidding one's own side suit shows two of top three  
1♠-2♦ -2♥-2♠s- 3♥-
  - \* Cue bidding partner's side suit shows one of top three  
1♠-2♦ -2♥-2♠s- 3♦-
  - \* Cue bidding unbid suit shows A/K/singleton/void  
1♠-2♦ -2♥-2♠s- 3♣-
  - \* Cue bidding trump suit shows two of top three  
1♠-2♦ -2♥-2♠s- 3♠-
  - \* Cue bidding 2NT DENIES two of top three trump
  - \* Failure to make a control bid denies that holding

# Slam Bidding

## Expert Italian Cue Bidding

\* You hold: ♠ QJx ♥ KQJx ♦ K ♣ AQTxx  
Partner: ♠ AKxxx ♥ Axx ♦ AQx ♣ xx

- \* Opponents passing, partner opens:
- 1 ♠ - 2 ♣ - (opening 5+ ♠ - GF with ♣)
  - 2 ♦ - 2 ♠ - (♦ suit - set ♠ as trump)
  - 3 ♦ - 3 ♥ - (2 top ♠, no top ♣, 2 top ♦ - ♥ control)
  - 4 ♥ - 4NT - (no add'l ♦, ♥ control - 1430)
  - 5 ♣ - 7NT - (1 or 4 key cards - to play)

# Slam Bidding

## Expert Italian Cue Bidding

- \* You hold: ♠ Axx ♥ AKQTx ♦ Txx ♣ Qx  
Partner: ♠ Kx ♥ Jxxx ♦ Axx ♣ AKxx
- \* Opponents passing, partner opens:
- \* Expert auction (Meckwell 2004 USBF):  
1♦!-1♥- 2♥-4♥-
- \* Our expert auction:  
1♣-1♥- 2♥-2♠- 2NT!-3♣-  
3♦-3♥- 3♠-4♥- 4NT-5♦- 6♥-