

The Varied Meanings of “4-NT,” and “5-NT,” Bids

Just as there are numerous 1-NT, 2-NT, and 3-NT bids with significantly different meanings dependent upon the actual sequence of the bidding process in which they become a part, the position at the bridge table of the Players who are using them, and the possible presence of any conventions which might be employed by the individual Partnerships involved; the same situation exists with 4-NT and 5-NT bids, as well.

The Varied Meanings of “4-No-Trump”

A. An Opener’s or Responder’s Bid of “4-NT” Subsequent to a Suit

Agreement: = “*Blackwood*” or “*Roman Key-Card Blackwood*” - An artificial Ace-Asking Convention exploring for the possibility of Slam

B. A Responder’s Bid of “4-NT” Following a 1-NT Opening Bid by

Partner: = An artificial “*Quantitative*” bid = Asking Opener to bid 6-NT with a maximum HCP 1-NT opening count, else to “*Pass*” with a minimum HCP 1-NT opening count – Requires 16 (+) HCP’s in S.A. or 19 (+) HCP’s in ACOL

C. An Overcall of “4-NT” Subsequent to the Opposition Reaching a

Game-Level Contract: = “*Unusual 2-NT*” = A artificial, pre-emptive interference and/or sacrifice bid holding 5-5 or longer in the two Minor suits

D. A 4-NT (No-Trump Escape) Bid Following an Unsatisfactory Gerber

Response From Partner: = Natural - To play - (Responder *must* “Pass”)

E. A “4-NT” Bid Subsequent to a “Jacoby Transfer”: = A “*Quantitative*” bid seeking either a 6-Level bid in the transferred Major, else 6-NT. (Responder can decline the slam by exiting with a 5-level response) (See Lesson on “*Texas Transfers.*”)

F. A “4-NT” Bid Subsequent to a “Texas Transfer”: = A “*Blackwood*” conventional Ace-asking bid. (Opener, here, *may not* “Pass,”)

The Varied Meanings of “5-No-Trump”

- A. A Bid of “5-NT” As Part of the “Blackwood” Convention:** = A conventional, Ace-Asking bid used in all “Blackwood” conventions seeking a count of Kings (Specific ones or Numbers, depending upon Partnership agreement)
- B. A Bid of “5-NT” Subsequent to a Game-Level Contract Being Reached:**
= The “Grand-Slam Force” - Asking Responder to go to the 6-Level or the 7-Level with either one or two of the top two Trump honors, respectively
- C. A Responder’s Bid of “5-NT” Following a 1-NT Opening Bid by Partner:** = A “Quantitative” conventional bid = Asking Opener to bid either 6-NT with a minimum 1-NT opening count, else to bid 7-NT when holding a maximum 1-NT opening count