

Splinter Bids and Roman Key Card Blackwood

Board 1 ♠ 6
 North Deals ♥ A Q 9 7 6
 None Vul ♦ K Q 9 5 3
 ♣ A Q

♠ A 8 7 5 2
 ♥ 10 3
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ 10 9 8 6

♠ J 10 9 3
 ♥ J 2
 ♦ A 10 7 2
 ♣ K 3 2

♠ K Q 4
 ♥ K 8 5 4
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ J 7 5 4

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 NT ¹	Pass	5 ♣ ²
Pass	5 ♥	All pass	

1. RKCB
 2. 1 or 4 Keycards

After South shows 10-12 HCP with 4 hearts, slam depends on the number of Key Cards South holds.

When South shows 1 Keycard, North can sign off and should safely make 11 tricks in 5 ♥

NB: It is impossible for South to hold 4 keycards as North can see 2 in their hand !

Board 2 ♠ 5
 East Deals ♥ K Q 8 7 6
 N-S Vul ♦ J 10 6 3
 ♣ J 10 5

♠ A J 8 7 4
 ♥ J 5 3
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ K 8 7

♠ K Q 9 2
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A Q 8 7 2
 ♣ A Q 4

♠ 10 6 3
 ♥ A 10 9 2
 ♦ 9 5
 ♣ 9 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♥ ¹	Pass
4 NT ²	Pass	5 ♦ ³	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5 NT ⁴	Pass
6 ♠	All pass		

1. Splinter agreeing spades and a singleton or void in ♥
 2. RKCB
 3. 0 or 3 key cards
 4. Showing the Q of trumps and no outside Kings

When West responds 1 ♠, East is strong enough to at least go directly to game. 4 ♥ shows game values in spades with shortage in hearts. This is great news for West who uses Key Card. East shows 0 or 3. Thus, slam will be good as long as East holds the ♠ Q.

NB: The strong 4 ♥ bid by East must mean they have 3 key cards, not zero !

Board 3 ♠ A 7 6 4
 South Deals ♥ K Q 3
 E-W Vul ♦ K 8 7 5 4
 ♣ 3

♠ 10 5 2
 ♥ J 8 5 2
 ♦ A 10 2
 ♣ Q 10 4

♠ J
 ♥ 9 7 6
 ♦ J 9 6 3
 ♣ A 9 8 5 2

♠ K Q 9 8 3
 ♥ A 10 4
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K J 7 6

West	North	East	South
	4 ♣ ¹	Pass	4 ♠
Pass			
All pass			

1. Splinter agreeing spades and a Singleton or void in ♣

4 ♣ is a splinter showing values for game in Spades and shortage in clubs. Because of this, South's honours in clubs are not that valuable, so they sign off in game rather than look for a slam. Declarer should make 11 tricks.

Board 4 ♠ J 9 4 3
 West Deals ♥ 10 3
 ♦ 10 4 3
 ♣ Q J 7 6

♠ Q 7
 ♥ K Q J 8 7 5
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ A 8 5

♠ A K 6 5 2
 ♥ A 9 2
 ♦ K Q 8 5
 ♣ 9

♠ 10 8
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ A J 7 2
 ♣ K 10 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♣ ¹	Pass
4 NT ²	Pass	5 ♥ ³	Pass
6 ♥	All pass		

1. Splinter agreeing hearts and a singleton or void in ♣
 2. RKCB
 3. 2 key cards and no Q of trumps

4 ♣ shows game values in hearts with shortage in clubs. East only has 3 hearts but they know their partner has at least 5 (but normally has 6).

West has an ideal club holding and asks for Key Cards. With East holding 2 of the 3 missing Key Cards and showing a strong game-going hand, West can bid to 6 ♥. The contract should make, losing just the ♦ A.

Board 5 ♠ —
 North Deals ♥ A Q J 4 3
 N-S Vul ♦ K Q 7 6
 ♣ A Q 7 3

♠ K 8 7 4 2
 ♥ 10 6 2
 ♦ J 10 9
 ♣ 10 6

♠ 10 9 6 5 3
 ♥ K 8 7
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K 9 5 2

♠ A Q J
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ A 8 4 3 2
 ♣ J 8 4

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♠ ¹	Pass	3 NT
All pass			

1. Splinter agreeing diamonds with a singleton or void in ♠

3 ♠ is a splinter agreeing diamonds because 2 ♠ would be a strong reverse bid. However, with too many HCP in spades, slam is unlikely. South signs off in 3 NT and should make their contract comfortably.

Board 6 ♠ 10 9 6 3 2
 East Deals ♥ 6 3
 E-W Vul ♦ 10 5 4
 ♣ J 6 3

♠ A K 8 4
 ♥ Q J 9 8 2
 ♦ A 8 3
 ♣ 4

♠ 5
 ♥ A K 7 5 4
 ♦ K Q J 7
 ♣ 10 9 5

♠ Q J 7
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 9 6 2
 ♣ A K Q 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	2 ♣
4 ♣ ¹	Pass	4 NT ²	Pass
5 ♠ ³	Pass	6 ♥	All pass

1. Splinter agreeing hearts and singleton or void in ♣
 2. RKCB
 3. 2 key cards and the Q of trumps

4 ♣ shows game values in hearts with shortage in clubs. With no wasted honours in clubs, East looks for slam and bids to 6 ♥ when their partner shows two of three missing Key Cards and the ♥ Q.

Splinter Bids and Roman Key Card Blackwood

Board 7

South Deals ♠ A K 9 6
♥ A 8 4
Both Vul ♦ K Q 6
♣ Q 8 7

♠ 7 3 ♠ Q 5 4
♥ J 10 7 ♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ J 10 8 5 4 ♦ A 9 7 2
♣ J 3 2 ♣ 10 4

♠ J 10 8 2
♥ K Q 5
♦ 3

♣ A K 9 6 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 NT ¹	Pass	5 ♣ ²
Pass	5 ♦ ³	Pass	5 ♥ ⁴
Pass	5 ♠	All pass	

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards
3. Asking for the Q of trumps
4. no Q of trumps

Once the spade fit is uncovered, North uses Key Card. South shows 1 Key Card and then denies the ♠ Q by bidding 5 ♥.

Missing 1 Key Card and the ♠ Q, North signs off in 5 ♠, which should make 11 tricks.

Board 8

West Deals ♠ 5 4
♥ 8 5 4 3
None Vul ♦ 10 8 7 2
♣ 10 8 3

♠ A Q 7 6 ♠ K J 9 2
♥ K 9 ♥ A 7 2
♦ K 5 3 ♦ A 9 4
♣ K J 5 2 ♣ A Q 9

♠ 10 8 3
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ Q J 6
♣ 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 NT ¹	Pass
5 ♣ ²	Pass	5 ♦ ³	Pass
6 ♦ ⁴	Pass	7 ♠	All pass

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards
3. Asking for the Q of trumps
4. Shows the Q of trumps and 3 outside Kings

East uses Key Card with the response showing 1 or 4. East knows it is just 1 now asks for the ♠ Q (5 ♦). The reply shows all three non-spade kings. Therefore, East can bid to grand. Mind how you play the club suit. Played correctly, there should be 13 tricks.

Board 9

North Deals ♠ A Q 7 6
♥ K 9
E-W Vul ♦ K 5 3
♣ K J 5 2

♠ 10 8 3 ♠ 5 4
♥ Q J 10 6 ♥ 8 5 4 3
♦ Q J 6 ♦ 10 8 7 2
♣ 7 6 4 ♣ 10 8 3

♠ K J 9 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ A 9 4
♣ A Q 9

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 NT ¹
Pass	5 ♣ ²	Pass	5 ♦ ³
Pass	6 ♦ ⁴	Pass	7 ♠

- All pass
1. RKCB
 2. 1 or 4 key cards
 3. Asking for the Q of trumps
 4. Shows the Q of trumps and 3 outside Kings

South uses Key Card with the response showing 1 or 4. South knows it is just 1 now asks for the ♠ Q (5 ♦). The reply shows all three non-spade kings. Therefore, South can bid to grand. Mind how you play the club suit. Played correctly, there should be 13 tricks.

Board 10

East Deals ♠ A 8 7 5 2
♥ 10 3
Both Vul ♦ 8 4
♣ 10 9 8 6

♠ K Q 4 ♠ 6
♥ K 8 5 4 ♥ A Q 9 7 6
♦ J 6 ♦ K Q 9 5 3
♣ J 7 5 4 ♣ A Q

♠ J 10 9 3
♥ J 2
♦ A 10 7 2
♣ K 3 2

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 NT ¹	Pass
5 ♣ ²	Pass	5 ♥	All pass

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 Keycards

After West shows 10-12 HCP with 4 hearts, slam depends on the number of Key Cards West holds.

When West shows 1 Keycard, East can sign off and should safely make 11 tricks in 5 ♥

NB: It is impossible for West to hold 4 keycards as East can see 2 in their hand !

Board 11

South Deals ♠ A J 8 7 4
♥ J 5 3
None Vul ♦ K 4
♣ K 8 7

♠ 10 6 3 ♠ 5
♥ A 10 9 2 ♥ K Q 8 7 6
♦ 9 5 ♦ J 10 6 3
♣ 9 6 3 2 ♣ J 10 5

♠ K Q 9 2
♥ 4
♦ A Q 8 7 2
♣ A Q 4

West	North	East	South
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♥ ¹
Pass	4 NT ²	Pass	5 ♦ ³
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5 NT ⁴
Pass	6 ♠	All pass	

1. Splinter agreeing spades and a singleton or void in ♥
2. RKCB
3. 0 or 3 key cards
4. Showing the Q of trumps and no outside Kings

When North responds 1 ♠, South is strong enough to at least go directly to game. 4 ♥ shows game values in spades with shortage in hearts. This is great news for North who uses Key Card. South shows 0 or 3. Thus, slam will be good as long as South holds the ♠ Q.

NB: The strong 4 ♥ bid by South must mean they have 3 key cards, not zero !

Board 12

West Deals ♠ 10 5 2
♥ J 8 5 2
N-S Vul ♦ A 10 2
♣ Q 10 4

♠ K Q 9 8 3 ♠ A 7 6 4
♥ A 10 4 ♥ K Q 3
♦ Q ♦ K 8 7 5 4
♣ K J 7 6 ♣ 3

♠ J
♥ 9 7 6
♦ J 9 6 3
♣ A 9 8 5 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♣ ¹	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

1. Splinter agreeing spades and a Singleton or void in ♣

4 ♣ is a splinter showing values for game in Spades and shortage in clubs. Because of this, West's honours in clubs are not that valuable, so they sign off in game rather than look for a slam. Declarer should make 11 tricks.

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Board 13 ♠ Q 7
North Deals ♥ K Q J 8 7 5
♦ 9 6
♣ A 8 5

♠ 10 8
♥ 6 4
♦ A J 7 2
♣ K 10 4 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ J 9 4 3
♥ 10 3
♦ 10 4 3
♣ Q J 7 6

♠ A K 6 5 2
♥ A 9 2
♦ K Q 8 5
♣ 9

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♣ ¹
Pass	4 NT ²	Pass	5 ♥ ³
Pass	6 ♥	All pass	

1. Splinter agreeing hearts and a singleton or void in ♣
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards and no Q of trumps

4 ♣ shows game values in hearts with shortage in clubs. South only has 3 hearts but they know their partner has at least 5 (but normally has 6).

North has an ideal club holding and asks for Key Cards. With South holding 2 of the 3 missing Key Cards and showing a strong game-going hand, North can bid to 6 ♥. The contract should make, losing just the ♦ A.

Board 16 ♠ 7 3
West Deals ♥ J 10 7
E-W Vul ♦ J 10 8 5 4
♣ J 3 2

♠ J 10 8 2
♥ K Q 5
♦ 3
♣ A K 9 6 5

N
W E
S

♠ A K 9 6
♥ A 8 4
♦ K Q 6
♣ Q 8 7

♠ Q 5 4
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ A 9 7 2
♣ 10 4

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 NT ¹	Pass
5 ♣ ²	Pass	5 ♦ ³	Pass
5 ♥ ⁴	Pass	5 ♠	All pass

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards
3. Asking for the Q of trumps
4. no Q of trumps

Once the spade fit is uncovered, East uses Key Card. West shows 1 Key Card and then denies the ♠ Q by bidding 5 ♥.

Missing 1 Key Card and the ♠ Q, East signs off in 5 ♠, which should make 11 tricks.

Board 14 ♠ K 8 7 4 2
East Deals ♥ 10 6 2
None Vul ♦ J 10 9
♣ 10 6

♠ A Q J
♥ 9 5
♦ A 8 4 3 2
♣ J 8 4

N
W E
S

♠ —
♥ A Q J 4 3
♦ K Q 7 6
♣ A Q 7 3

♠ 10 9 6 5 3
♥ K 8 7
♦ 5
♣ K 9 5 2

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠ ¹	Pass
3 NT	All pass		

1. Splinter agreeing diamonds with a singleton or void in ♠

3 ♠ is a splinter agreeing diamonds because 2 ♠ would be a strong reverse bid. However, with too many HCP in spades, slam is unlikely. West signs off in 3 NT and should make their contract comfortably.

Board 15 ♠ A K 8 4
South Deals ♥ Q J 9 8 2
N-S Vul ♦ A 8 3
♣ 4

♠ Q J 7
♥ 10
♦ 9 6 2
♣ A K Q 8 7 2

N
W E
S

♠ 10 9 6 3 2
♥ 6 3
♦ 10 5 4
♣ J 6 3

♠ 5
♥ A K 7 5 4
♦ K Q J 7
♣ 10 9 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
2 ♣	4 ♣ ¹	Pass	4 NT ²
Pass	5 ♠ ³	Pass	6 ♥
All pass			

1. Splinter agreeing hearts and singleton or void in ♣
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards and the Q of trumps

4 ♣ shows game values in hearts with shortage in clubs. With no wasted honours in clubs, South looks for slam and bids to 6 ♥ when their partner shows two of three missing Key Cards and the ♥ Q.