

EXCLUSION KC BLACKWOOD AFTER MAJOR SUIT AGREEMENT

Slam hands with void suits are often hard to handle. Using Blackwood is wrong in most cases. If you use RKB holding two aces plus a void suit, and partner shows one ace, you may have to guess which it is.

There are several ways to go with void suits. The most common is cue bidding which may lead to a Blackwood sequence. However, it is dangerous to cue bid a void early, because partner may think that the king or king-queen of your void suit is golden and go ballistic.

A better way to resolve this dilemma is to use EXCLUSION KEYCARD BLACKWOOD (EKB) whereby you ask partner for keycards OUTSIDE of the void suit. EKB is a jump over game in an un-bid suit or in a suit bid by the opponents, usually after agreement. Partner does NOT count the ace of the jump suit in the response. Normal RKC responses apply (This treatise deals only with major suit sequences):

- 1st step= 0 or 3 Key Cards (outside the excluded suit)
- 2nd step=1
- 3rd step=2 without the Queen
- 4th step=2 with the Queen

An example:

Opener	Responder
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♠ A K Q 6 5 2	♠ 9 8 4 3
♥	♥ K 7 4 3
♦ K 7	♦ A 8 5 2
♣ A K Q 9 8	♣ 3

2 ♣	2 ♦ (1)
2 ♠	4 ♣ (2)
5 ♥ (3)	5 NT (4)
7 ♠ (5)	Pass

- (1) Waiting
- (2) Splinter
- (3) Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
- (4) 1 Keycard outside of hearts (must be the Diamond Ace)
- (5) Bingo!

Exclusion responses are rarely lower than five of the agreed suit. They will

usually be higher, though the five level of the agreed suit may be the response.

Note: In an uncontested auction, a leap over game after partner's response is Exclusion Key Card Blackwood agreeing partner's suit.

Opener	Responder
♠ A K 8 5 2	♠ -
♥ A J 9 5	♥ Q 8 7 6 2
♦ -	♦ A K Q 9 6
♣ K Q 4	♣ J 6 4

Opener	Responder
1 ♠	2 ♥
5 ♦ (1)	5 ♥ (2)
Pass (3)	

- (1) Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
- (2) 0 Key Cards (The Diamond Ace doesn't count)
- (3) 2 Key Cards missing

When an Exclusion Key Card Blackwood ask is doubled, you have 2 extra bids available, pass and RDBL

Pass = 0
 RDBL = 1
 1st step = 2
 Etc

Opener	Responder
♠ A K 8 5 2	♠ Q J 7 4
♥ K Q 5	♥ A 9
♦ --	♦ Q 8 5 4 3
♣ K Q J 8	♣ 9 7

Opener	Opp.	Responder
1 ♠		3 ♠ (1)
5 ♦ (2)	Dbl.	RDBL (3)

- (1) Limit Raise
- (2) Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
- (3) 1 Key Card outside of the Diamond suit

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 ♠ A
 ♥ K 9 8 6 5 4 2
 ♦ K Q J 8 2
 ♣ --

1 ♦ pass 1 ♥ pass
 2 ♦ pass ?

You bid 5 ♣, showing a void in clubs and asking for aces. Partner will not count the ace of clubs in his reply. He will bid 5 ♦ with no aces, 5 ♥ with one working ace (A ♥ or A ♦), 5 ♠ with two working aces without the Queen.

Try this hand:

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

1 ♦ pass 1 ♥ pass
 2 ♦ pass 5 ♣ pass
 ?

5 ♦ = no working keycards (your side is missing the ace of diamonds and the king of hearts). Return to 5H or pass 5D.

5 ♥ = one working keycard (king of hearts or ace of diamonds). Bid 6 ♦

5 ♠ = two working keycards without the queen of hearts. Bid 6 ♦

5 NT = two working keycards with the queen of hearts. Bid 7 ♦

You use EKB with a simple jump if the jump is to the five level.

1 ♥ 1 ♠
 2 ♦ 3 ♥
 5 ♣

Opener has:

♠ K 8
 ♥ K Q 8 7 6 2
 ♦ K Q J 9 8
 ♣ --

