

♠♥♦♣ USING ALL OF RKC ♠♥♦♣

East deals and passes. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	K954
♥	QJ
♦	A
♣	AKQ974

Wow! You have 20 HCP and a solid 6-card Club suit. It's important to set an aspiration for yourself when you first look at this hand. You should be thinking SLAM right from the start. That way, you won't fall into the lazy trap of signing off in only a game unless you get convinced that it is correct after the bidding progresses.

You open 1♣ and the opponents are silent. Your partner responds 1♦. This either denies a 4-card Major with less than an opening hand; or shows 4+ Diamonds and a 4-card Major with opening count. Either way, 1♦ is forcing and partner will rebid his 4-Major in the event he has a game forcing hand. This is the modern Walsh Diamond treatment.

Normally, you want to show your 4-card Spade suit. But with a game forcing hand, you want to partner know of your extra strength. Therefore, you jump shift into 2♠. Now, North knows your point count and he can base his future bids on his partner holding 4 Spades, 4+ Clubs and 19+ points.

North shows a good hand with Club support by jumping to 4♣. This is slam invitational, since if he had a weak hand without Spade support, he would just jump to 5♣.

What are your thoughts at this point?

I hope you are still thinking slam. But you have to find out about your partner's holding in the Majors. You start with a control bid of 4♦, announcing your Diamond control and the invitation to slam.

North rebids 4NT which shows control of both Majors and willingness to proceed to 6♣ if you won't be off two key-cards. Your rebid is 5♣ if you are playing the standard 3014 version of Keycard Blackwood. It shows three key cards. In your case, they are the ♦A, ♣A and ♣K.

North now bids 5♦ which is the Queen Ask. North is considering a grand slam, meaning he has all the Aces and has to find the ♣Q, after which, he can ask for Kings. You do have the ♣Q and so you tell partner this by bidding the next cheapest King. In your case it is the ♠K. This also serves the purpose of denying the ♥K.

After learning the salient features of your hand, North signs off at 6♣.

Do you want to push to 7♣? North has "shown" the ♥A but denied the ♥K. If he had the ♥K, he would have bid 7♣ himself. That means the grand slam is 50% based on whether the ♥K is onside for a finesse.

The answer is how badly you need the extra points. In this case, you decide you will be happy with making 6♣ and pass.

Here is the full North/South auction:

North	South
	1♣
1♦	2♣
4♣	4♦
4NT	5♣
5♦	5♠
6♣	Pass

West leads the ♥3 and you see this dummy. What is your plan?

N	North
♠	A2
♥	A108
♦	J542
♣	J1052

West Leads: ♥3

