

What is your agreement?

Provided by Neil H. Timm

The slam ace-asking bid of 4♣ is known as “Gerber”. **Gerber** is a contract bridge **convention** devised by William Konigsberger and Win Nye from Switzerland who published it in 1936; John **Gerber** of Texas introduced it to North America in 1938.

However, the criteria for its use and the definition of the bid vary among duplicate bridge players. It is not enough to just ask, “Do you play Gerber”?

The original definition or use of the 4♣ asking bid was:

- 4♦ = 0 aces
- 4♥ = 1 ace
- 4♠ = 2 aces
- 4NT = 3 aces
- 5♣ = 4 aces

However, the above bidding sequence did not conveniently allow for asking for kings, the modern sequence of bids is:

- 4♦ = 0 or 4 aces
- 4♥ = 1 ace
- 4♠ = 2 aces
- 4NT = 3 aces

Many bridge experts use “expert” Gerber depending on whether they use 1430 or 3014 Roman Keycard Blackwood. The bidding sequences are:

Roman Keycard 3014 Gerber:

- 4♦ = 0 or 3 aces
- 4♥ = 1 or 4 aces
- 4♠ = 2 aces with a maximum

Roman Keycard 1430 Gerber:

- 4♦ = 1 or 4 aces
- 4♥ = 0 or 3 aces
- 4♠ = 2 aces with a maximum

Like Blackwood, a follow-up bid may be used in Gerber to ask for kings. There are two principal approaches for the king-ask bid:

- Bid 5♣ to ask for kings or
- Use the next available bid, skipping the trump suit if one has been agreed, to ask for kings.

Bridge players have proposed other uses of the 4♣ bid.

For example for responses to the bid 2NT after a weak-two bid, the bid of 4♣ is the slam ace-asking bid defined:

- 4♦ = 0 aces without the Queen
- 4♥ = 1 ace with the Queen
- 4♠ = 2 aces without the Queen
- 4NT = 2 aces with the Queen
- 5♣ = 3 aces without the Queen
- 5♦ = 3 aces with the Queen

Yes there are many uses for the bid e.g. Black and Red, Colorful, Extended, Keycard Versions, Romex, Super, Weak Keycard, etc.

What is your agreement? Lets look at an example.

Both Vulnerable and North deals

		♠	A54		
		♥	A82		
		♦	AK5		
		♣	AJ106		
♠	J932	N W E S		♠	1076
♥	Q1095			♥	KJ764
♦	1092			♦	Q83
♣	94			♣	K5
		♠	KQ8		
		♥	3		
		♦	J764		
		♣	Q8732		

Did you reach 6♣ and endplay east for the King?