## Minor 2-Suiters after a 1N Opening Bid

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## Overview

Consider responding hands that are 2 -suited in the minors, with:

- at least 5-4 in and *,
- minor suit lengths differing by no more than 1 ,
- no more than 3 cards in either major suit.

Grouped by shape, these are
5-4: $3=1=5=4,3=1=4=5,1=3=5=4,1=3=4=5,2=2=5=4,2=2=4=5$
5=5: $3=0=5=5, \quad 0=3=5=5, \quad 2=1=5=5, \quad 1=2=5=5$
6-5: $2=0=6=5, \quad 2=0=5=6, \quad 0=2=6=5, \quad 0=2=5=6, \quad 1=1=6=5, \quad 1=1=5=6$
6=6: $1=0=6=6, \quad 0=1=6=6$
7-6: $0=0=7=6,0=0=6=7$ (don't hold your breath!)
The goal is to describe a system of exploring minor-suit fits at game and (especially) slam levels after a $1 \mathbf{N}$ opening bid. At the same time, even weak 2 -suiters offer the possibility of improved part-score contracts and shouldn't be ignored.

## Part-Score Minor-Suited Hands

With 5-4 or 5-5 distributions, responder should consider passing to allow opener to play in $1 \mathbf{N}$. With $3-0=5=5$, or with any 6-5 or better, and little chance of game, responder should suggest the possibility of a minor suit part-score. The description of these hands may be overloaded with a minor-suit transfer. For example, if $2 \mathbf{N}$ otherwise transfers to 3 , then opener with a preference may bid "the gap", 3\%. Responder will pass 3 with the weak twosuiter, correct to 3 with the weak transfer, or make some other bid with the strong transfer. Responder will pass 3 with either the weak 2 -suiter or weak transfer, otherwise make another bid.
Game-Invitational Minor-Suited Hands
These are notoriously difficult to evaluate after a $1 \mathbf{N}$ opening. The bid, if available, may be used to describe these hands. Opener may pass to play 3 , correct to 3 which responder will pass, or make any other bid to accept the game invitation. The partnership must define their acceptance bids. If the 3 bid is already assigned (e.g. Puppet Stayman), and if no other response to the 1N opening is available, responder must either downgrade and take a below-game action, or upgrade and force to game.
Game-Forcing / Slam-Interest Hands
Hands with a 3-card major-suit fragment offer the possibility of a 5-3 fit in $\vee$ or and are treated separately. These shapes are
中-fragment: $3=1=5-4,3=0=5=5$, and $\uparrow$-fragment: $1=3=5-4,0=3=5=5$.
The methods described here employ 2 conventions:

1. 3 Minor Suit Stayman for hands with no major-suit fragment;
2. 3 or 3 Major Fragment (you may prefer to bid the splinter).

## Below-Game Minor 2-Suiters

Qualifying hands are 2 -suited in the minors, at least 5-4, and will usually have at least one singleton or void. With 2=2=5-4 shapes, it's often best to pass $1 \mathbf{N}$.

When the $2 \mathbf{N}$ response to a $1 \mathbf{N}$ opening is a transfer to *, the $2 \mathbf{N}$ transfer bid can be overloaded to include weak minor 2 -suiters.

- With a preference for at least 3 cards, opener bids the gap, 3*. Otherwise opener simply completes the transfer, 3.
- With the weak minors 2-suiter responder always passes opener's 3 or 3 bid. The worst-case scenario is a 4-3 minor suit fit.
- With the weak -transfer responder corrects a 3 preference to 3 and opener must pass; responder simply passes opener's 3*.
- With the strong -transfer responder continues with any bid higher than $3 *$, per partnership's -transfer agreement.


## Opener's initial response to $\mathbf{2 N}$, -transfer or weak minors

| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathrm{~N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{2} \end{aligned}$ | 2N | - preference: Opener has longer than . |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \end{aligned}$ | 2 N | - -preference or no preference. Opener's \$s are at least as long as the |

Responder's continuations with a weak minor 2-suiter

| $1 \mathbf{N}$ | $2 \mathbf{N}$ | Opener shows a preference. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $3 \mathbf{N}$ | pass | Responder must pass to play 3 . |
| $\mathbf{1 N}$ | $2 \mathbf{N}$ | Opener has at least as many s as \&s. |
| 3 | pass | Responder must pass to play 3. |

When responder's $2 \mathbf{N}$ is a -transfer, it may be weak intending to play 3 , or it may be strong, at least a mild slam-try. If weak, responder must end the bidding at $3 *$. By continuing beyond $3 *$, responder shows a strong transfer, a slam-try. The continuations described below are illustrative only as a partnership will have formulated their own transfer response structure.

| Responder's continuations with a -transfer |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1N | 2N |  |
| 32 | 3 | Responder corrects to 3 weak. Opener must pass. |
|  | 3M | Splinter, strong -transfer, slam tr |
|  | 3N | Semi-balanced, strong -transfer, mild slam try |
|  | 4 | Splinter, strong -transfer, slam try |
|  | 4 | Semi-balanced, strong -transfer, strong slam-try |
|  | 2N |  |
| 3 | pass <br> other | Responder's pass indicates a weak -transfer. As above; strong -transfer |

## Inviting Game, Minor 2-Suiters

Responder's is a strong game-try, at least 5-4 in the minors. The 5-4 and 5-5 hands may include a 3-card major. Opener may

- pass 3 or bid 3 to decline the game-try;
- bid $3 \mathbf{M}$ with a 5-card major; responder raises to $4 \mathbf{M}$ with 3 , or bids 3N with a half-stopper in the other major, else bids 4:
- bid 3N, to play, with stoppers in both majors;
- bid 4 to accept the game-try in responder's better minor;
- bid 4 or $4 \boldsymbol{\varphi}$, Kickback, to accept the game-try in or

Opener's continuations following a MSS 3\& game-try

| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ \text { pass } \end{array}$ |  | Declines, opener passes to play 3\%. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \end{aligned}$ | 32 | Declines, corrects to 3*. Responder must pass 3 . |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ 3 \mathbf{n} \end{array}$ | 320 | Shows a $\downarrow$ suit. Responder will 1) raise with 3 , 2) bid $3 \mathbf{N}$ with a $1 / 2-s t o p p e r, ~ 3)$ bid $4 \boldsymbol{*}$. |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ 3 \mathbf{n} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 3 | Shows a suit. Responder will 1) raise with 3 s, 2) bid $3 \mathbf{N}$ with a $\boldsymbol{V}$ 1/2-stopper, 3) bid $4 \boldsymbol{2}$. |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{N} \end{aligned}$ | 32 | NT Sign-Off: opener has at least a 1/2-stopper in both majors. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline 1 N \\ & 4 \boldsymbol{N} \end{aligned}$ | 3* | Minor-Suits Puppet: Opener has equal length minors and asks for responder's better minor. |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ 4 \end{array}$ | 3 | \& Acceptance: 4 is a Kickback keycard-ask for \%. |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{V} \end{aligned}$ | 3 | Acceptance: 4凶 is a Kickback keycard-ask for *. |

Opener declines directly via pass or correct, or after a $3 \mathbf{M}$ try:

## Declining the invitation

| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & \text { pass } \end{aligned}$ |  | Declines, will play 3\% (above), Weak preference. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \mathbf{3} \\ & \text { pass } \end{aligned}$ | Declines, will play 3* (above), Weak * preference. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{M} \\ & \text { pass } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 32 \\ & 42 \end{aligned}$ | The retreat to 4 denies support for opener's major or a stopper in the other major. Pass = Weak \& preference. |
| $\qquad$ |  | The retreat to 4 denies support for opener's major or a stopper in the other major. <br> 4* correction $=$ Weak * preference. |

Opener may accept the game-try in NT by bidding 3N directly, or by passing $3 \mathbf{N}$ after a $3 \mathbf{M}$ fragment-ask:

## Bidding game in No-Trump

| $1 \mathbf{N}$ | $3 \mathbf{N i r e c t}$ acceptance, 3N. |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{3 N}$ | pass |  |
| $1 \mathbf{N}$ | $3 \mathbf{N}$ | Indirect acceptance. Opener shows one major, and |
| $3 \mathbf{M}$ | $3 \mathbf{N}$ | at least a half-stopper in the other. Responder |
| pass | controls the minors and the other half-stopper. |  |

Opener may accept a minor-suit game-try via Kickback in direct response to $3 \boldsymbol{\%}$. With equal preference for either minor, opener puppets via 4 to defer to responder; then, responder must make a Kickback ask to set the trump suit (or bid 5 directly):

## Accepting the Game-Try in a Minor

| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \boldsymbol{2} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \mathbf{2} \\ & 5 \mathrm{~m} \end{aligned}$ | Indirect acceptance via 4* (puppet). Responder bids game directly - tactical. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{N} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \\ & 4 \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Indirect acceptance via } 4 \text { (puppet). } \\ & \text { Responder chooses ; } 4 \text { is Kickback for } \& . \\ & \text { Responder chooses } 4 \text { is Kickback for } \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | 3 | Direct acceptance. 4 is Kickback for \&. |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{V} \end{aligned}$ | 3 | Direct acceptance. 4 - is kickback for *. |

After opener's attempt to land in $4 \mathbf{M}$ or $3 \mathbf{N}$, responder makes a negative response via $4 \boldsymbol{4}$. Opener's 4 is a below-game correction and responder must pass. To accept the game-try in a minor suit,
 preference or equal preference respectively, and responder is expected to bid game in a preferred minor suit:

## Accepting in a Minor after trying for 4M

| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{M} \\ & 4 \mathbf{V} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 32 \\ & 42 \\ & 5 \% \end{aligned}$ | Responder denies values in the other major. Opener's 4 forces 5 by responder. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{M} \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \\ & 4 \\ & 5 \end{aligned}$ | Responder denies values in the other major. Opener's 4 forces 5 by responder. |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{M} \\ & 4 \mathbf{N} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \mathbf{m} \\ & 4 \mathbf{2} \\ & 5 \mathrm{~m} \end{aligned}$ | Responder denies values in the other major. Opener's $4 \mathbf{N}$ forces responder to choose a minor. |

## Game-Forcing / Slam-Interest Hands

Hands that include a major suit fragment are distinguished from hands without a fragment. This system employs three slam-tries.

- 3 : no or fragment Minor-Suit Stayman
- 3レ: $1=3=5-4$ or $0=3=5=5$-Fragment (Splinter if preferred)
- 3: 3=1=5-4 or $3=0=5=5$-Fragment (Splinter if preferred)


## Common Features

Each of the responses, $3 \Downarrow$, 3 or 3 , is a slam try with a minor two-suiter. The responses to these bids have much in common:

- Opener may suggest playing in no-trump by responding $3 \mathbf{N}$ with at least $1 \frac{1}{2}$ stoppers in each major suit. Responder will pass 3N only when making just a mild slam try.
- Opener may show a strong preference for either or via a direct keycard-ask. This description assumes Kickback, so 4 and 4 agree and respectively.
- Opener may show a hand that is suitable for minor suit play, but with equal length in and via Minor Suits Puppet.

A 6-Keycard structure is employed in response to a $4 \mathbf{N}$ Keycardask, and is adapted to Kickback, 4 and $4 \vee$, responses as well.

## 1N-3*: Minor Suit Stayman

3. is a slam try, at least 5-4 in the minors, without a fragment
(3 cards) in either major. Responder's shape will be one of:

$$
2=2=5-4,2-1=5=5,2-0=6-5,1=1=6-5,1-0=6=6 \text { or } 0=0=7-6
$$

The common responses described above are adopted. In addition, opener may puppet through 3 to ask for responder's shape:

## Opener's continuations following a MSS 3

| $\begin{aligned} & 1 N \\ & 3 \end{aligned}$ | 3 | Shape-Ask: Asks for responder's distribution. (See responses below) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \mathbf{1 N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{1} \end{aligned}$ | 3 | Unassigned: partnership agreement. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{N} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 3 | NT Sign-off: Good controls in both majors. Opener suggests playing in 3N. Responder may override. |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 1 N \\ 4 \mathbf{N} \end{array}$ | 3 | Minor Suits Puppet. Opener has equal length minors and asks for responder's better minor. See below. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | 3 | * Acceptance: 4 is a Kickback keycard-ask for |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{V} \end{aligned}$ | 3 | - Acceptance: 4 is a Kickback keycard-ask for * |


| Responding to the $3 \boldsymbol{v}$ Shape-Ask |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1N | 3 |  |
| $3 *$ | 3 | $2=2=5 \mathbf{4}$ or $2-1=5=\mathbf{5}$ |
|  | 3N | $2-0=6-5$ or $1=1=6-5$ |
|  | 4 | $1-0=6=6$ |
|  | 4 | $0=0=6=7$ |
|  | 4 | $0=0=7=6$ |
| 1N | 3 |  |
| 3 | 3 | $2=2=5-4$ or $2-1=5=5$ : |
| 3N |  | 3N shape relay |
|  | 4 | $2=2=4=54$ Kickback; 4 $\rightarrow$ 4N; 4N Keycard-ask. |
|  | 4 | $2=2=5=4 \quad 4 \mathrm{Kickback}$; 4 $\rightarrow$ 4N; 4N Keycard-ask. |
|  | 4 |  |
| 1 N | 3 |  |
| 3 | 3 | 2=2=5-4 or $2-1=5=5$ : |
| 4 |  | 4 Minor Suits Puppet. See below. |
| 4 |  | 4, Kickback for \$. |
| 4 |  | 4- Kickback for *. |
| 4 |  |  |
| 4N |  | 4N 6-Aces Keycard ask. |
| 1N | 3 |  |
| 3 | 3N | 2-0 $=6-5$ or $1=1=6-5$ : |
| 4* |  | 4. Minor Suits Puppet. See below. |
| 4 |  | 4 Kickback for |
| 4 |  | 4 Kickback for * |
| 4 |  | $4{ }^{(1)} 4 \mathbf{N}$, Sign-off Relay. See below. |
| 4N |  | 4N 6-Aces Keycard ask. |
| 1N | 3 |  |
| 3 | 4* | 1-0=6=6: |
| 4 |  | 4 Kickback for |
| 4 |  | 4* Kickback for *. |
| 4 a |  | 4. $\rightarrow$ 4N, Sign-off Relay. See below. |
| 4N |  | 4N 6-Aces Keycard ask. |
| 1N | 3 |  |
| 3 | 4* | $\frac{0=0=6=7}{0=0=7=6}:$ |
| 4 |  | $4 \boldsymbol{4} \mathbf{N}$, Sign-off Relay. See below. |
| 4N |  | 4N 6-Aces Keycard ask. |

Note the common continuations available to opener following the shape-ask; when available, 4* is always Minor Suits Puppet; 4*, 4 ${ }^{\text {V }}$ and $4 \mathbf{N}$ are always Keycard-asks; the Sign-off Relay. Minor Suits Puppet and the Sign-off Relay are described below. The partnership must define continuations to the $7-6$ responses.

1N－3甲／3d：Major－Suit Fragments

| Opener＇s continuation following a Major Fragment Slam－Try |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ 3 \mathbf{n} \end{array}$ | $3$ | Forces 4ヶ．Sign－Off． |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1N } \\ & 4 \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$ | 3 | Strong $\uparrow$－preference： 4 is a Keycard－ask for $\boldsymbol{\vee}$ ． |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 3 \mathbf{N} \end{aligned}$ | $3 \vee / 4$ | NT Sign Off：Good controls in both majors． Responder passes only with a mild slam try． |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathrm{~N} \\ & 4 \boldsymbol{n} \end{aligned}$ | $3 \vee / 4$ | Minor Suits Puppet．Opener has equal length minors and asks for responder＇s better minor．See below． |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | $3 \vee / 4$ | Strong－preference：4 is a Keycard－ask for \％． |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{V} \end{aligned}$ | $3 \vee / 4$ | Strong－preference： 4 is a Keycard－ask for ． |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$ | 3 | Sign－Off in 4＾． |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{N} \end{aligned}$ | 3 | Strong＾－preference： $4 \mathbf{N}$ is a Keycard－ask for $\boldsymbol{\wedge}$ ． |

## Minor－Suits Puppet

The 4 Minor Suits Puppet handles two cases：
－Suggested sign off in $4 \mathbf{N}$ or in 5 or 5 ，
－Slam－try cooperation with equal lengths in and ．
To cater for both cases，responder with only mild slam interest must relay via 4 allowing opener to clarify．With a strong try， responder may relay，or may opt to bypass the relay

## Minor Suits Puppet

| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathrm{~N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{N} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3-/ \vee / ゅ \\ & 4 \\ & 4 \vee \\ & 4 \\ & 4 \mathbf{N} \end{aligned}$ | 4＊Minor Suits Puppet，4＊Relay <br> Strong slam－try：$\uparrow$－exclusionary Keycard－ask． <br> Strong slam－try：－exclusionary Keycard－ask． <br> Strong slam－try：Inclusive 6－Ace Keycard－ask． |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{N} \\ & 4 \mathbf{V} \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | ```Relay Slam try cooperation; equal lengths and . 4. }->\mathrm{ 4N, Sign-off Relay.``` |

## The Sign－off Relay

Opener may decline a slam－try by bidding 4 to signal a sign－off attempt：
－Responder bids $4 \mathbf{N}$ to accept the sign－off．Opener will pass to play $4 \mathbf{N}$ ，or correct to 5 or 5 which responders must pass．
－Responder rejects the sign－off by giving a $4 \mathbf{N}$ Keycard response and slam will be reached．

## Special Considerations

## Simplification

As outlined in the following section，the responses to $4 \boldsymbol{\varphi}$ and $4 \boldsymbol{4}$ exclusionary asks are identical to the $4 \mathbf{N}$ inclusive responses． In the present context，the intent of a major－suit exclusionary ask is solely to discount an Ace opposite a void．Maintaining an identical structure for both exclusionary and inclusive asks is a valid simplification since specific King－ask continuations are seldom useful with extreme 2 －suiters．

## This is an optional treatment；a partnership may reasonably keep their standard response structures．

## Precaution

The location of a void may be critical．Contrast the following：

| A | A：T983 | B | A：T983 | C | ＾：T983 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 『：AKT6 |  | 『 AKT6 |  | ข AKT6 |
|  | ＊：KQ3 |  | ＊：KQ3 |  | ＊：KQ3 |
|  | \＆K T |  | \％K T |  | s．K T |
|  | ¢ |  | 4． 7 |  | 4： 72 |
|  | 『： 72 |  | 『： 2 |  | $\uparrow$ ： |
|  | ＊：AJ 975 |  | ＊：AJ975 |  | ＊：AJ975 |
| 13 tricks | ＊：AQJ643 | 12 tricks | ¢：AQJ 643 | 11 tricks | \＆：A QJ 643 |

Accordingly：
－An opener with an unguarded major should not ask for Keycards opposite unknown distribution．The 3 and $3 \mathbf{N}$ responses to a 3 • shape－ask describe responding hands that may include a 2－card major suit；now，opener with an unguarded major may employ the 4＊Minor Suits Puppet to force responder to be the asker．
－Responder should employ an exclusionary Keycard ask as a means of alerting opener to a major suit void；similarly responder＇s Kickback 4 or $4 \boldsymbol{\varphi}$ ，or 6 －Aces $4 \mathbf{N}$ ，should deny a void major．

## Modified Two-Suited (6 Ace) Keycard-Ask

In the contexts described above:

- The $K$ and $K$ are counted as the $5^{\text {th }}$ and $6^{\text {th }}$ Keycards.
- There are 2 trump Queens: Qs and Q* 2 side Kings: K and K .

Keycard-Ask

| 4N: Minor Suits 6 Ace Keycard Responses |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Response | Description |  |
| 52 | 0 or 3 Keycards |  |
| 5 | 1 or 4 Keycards |  |
| 5 | 2 or 5 Keycards \& 1 trump Queen; 5 to ask $5 \mathbf{N}$ : Q 6 : |  |
| 5 | 2 or 5 Keycards \& 0 or both Q and Q |  |
| 5N | Void and 0 or 2 or 4 Keycards (even \#) | **Optional |
| 6\% | Void and 1 or 3 or 5 Keycards (odd \#) | **Optional |

** These are optional and should be agreed by the partnership. Usually, showing trump Queens should take precedence over voids.

Queen-Ask
After a 5 or 5 Keycard response, 5 is the Queen-ask:


King-Ask
When available, 5 N is the specific King ask:

## 5N: Specific King Ask

| Response | Description |
| :--- | :--- |
| 6 | Neither side King |
| 6 | Both K and K |
| 6 | K only |
| 6 | K only |

## Exclusionary Keycard-Asks

Responses to exclusionary 4 or 4 keycard-asks are identical to the $4 \mathbf{N}$ responses above. Since one suit is excluded, the Queenask responses end at 6/6; the King-ask has only 2 responses, 6 denies a side King, 6* shows the King of the included major.

Kickback: 4 ( $\boldsymbol{*}$ agreed), 4 ( $\downarrow$ agreed)
Responses to the 4 and 4 keycard-asks are adjusted to account for 6 Keycards and the $Q$ and $Q$ in identical fashion to $4 \mathbf{N}$ : $1^{\text {st }}$ Step 0 or 3 Keys $2^{\text {nd }}$ Step 1 or 4 Keys 3rd Step 2 or 5 Keys and 1 trump Queen (next step to ask) $4^{\text {th }}$ Step 2 or 5 Keys and 0 or 2 trump Queens $5^{\text {th }}$ Step even number of Keycards and some void ( $\boldsymbol{\varphi}$ or $\boldsymbol{p}$ ) $6^{\text {th }}$ Step odd number of Keycards and some void ( $\boldsymbol{\varphi}$ or )
4N: Minor Suits 6 Ace Keycard Responses

| * Agreed | - Agreed |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 * | 4 - |  |
| Kickback | Kickback | Response Description |
| 4 | 4 | 0 or 3 Keycards |
| 4 | 4N | 1 or 4 Keycards |
| 4N | 5 | 2 or 5 Keycards \& 1 trump Queen; |
|  |  | 1st Step asks 2nd Step: Q \% 3rd Step: Q |
| 52 | 5 | 2 or 5 Keycards \& 0 or both Q and Q |
| 5 | 5 | 0 or 2 or 4 Keycards, void **Optional |
| 5 | 5 | 1 or 3 or 5 Keycards, void **Optional |

The Queen-ask is always the 3 rd Step, $4 \mathbf{N}$ or 5 :
Queen-Ask with 2-Suit Responses

| Agreed | - Agreed |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $4 \mathbf{N}$ <br> Queens? | Queens? | Response Description |
| 5 | 5 | No trump Queen |
| 5 | 5 | Q only |
| 5 | 5 | Q only |
| 5 | 5N | Both Q and Q*, no side King |
| 5N | 6\% | Both Q* and Q*, K only |
| 62 | 6 | Both Qe and Q , K only |
| 6 | 6 | Both Q* and Q , Both K and K |

When available, the $5^{\text {th }}$ step is a specific King-ask:

| Specific King Ask |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :--- |
| Agreed | Agreed |  |
| 5 | 5 |  |
| Kings? | Kings? | Response Description |
| 5 | 5 | Neither side King |
| 5 | $5 N$ | Both K and K |
| $5 \mathbf{N}$ | 6 | K only |
| 6 | 6 | K only |

## Examples



Example 2: Minor Suit Stayman, Shape-Ask, Strong Preference
a: K QJ 7 1N 3* Minor Suit Stayman

V: 85

- : AK 92
\&: A 72
A: 8654
A: T9 3
४: K QT73
४: J 942
*:
*: J 653
*: JT8 5
-: 94
A: A 2
v:A 6
*: QT874
: K Q 63

34 34 Shape-Ask; 2=2=5=4 or 2=2=4=5
3N 4 $\quad$ Shape-Ask; 2=2=5=4 ( 5 \&s)
4 4 4 Kickback $\$ 0$ or 3 Keycards
54 5N Queen-Ask; 2 Queens, no side Kings 7N

A shape-ask uncovers South's $2=2=5=4$. Despite the $\downarrow$ flaw, North confirms via Kickback (4ソ), then a Queen-ask, and can count 13 tricks off the top. (The 2-way finesse will be marked)

Example 3: 〉 Fragment, Preference


| Example 4: \& Fragment |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ¢: A 3 | 1N 30 | Q-fragment |
|  | v:AQ6 2 | 4* 50 | 2 or 5 Keycards, 0 or 2 Queens |
|  | - K 93 | 5* 6* | Both side Kings, K $\downarrow$ \& K |
|  | ¢: A 842 | 7 N |  |
| ¢: QT84 | ¢: J 965 |  |  |
| 『:T7543 | ข: J 98 | North counts: <br> A K <br> A K Q <br> A K O 9 |  |
| *: 654 | *: 872 |  |  |
| 2: $T$ | \%: J 76 |  |  |
|  | ¢: K 72 | $\text { A K Q } 9$ |  |
|  | ャ:K | $\text { A K Q } 8$ |  |
|  | *: A Q T | 8 additional unknown cards in \& |  |
|  | ¢: KQ953 |  |  |



Example 6: Sign-off Relay - Override


| Example 7: Extreme 6=6, $\vee$-void |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A: AQ752 | 1N | 3 |  |
|  | V:AK2 | 3 N | 4* | Shape-ask; 6=6 |
|  | *: 53 | 4N | 52 | Keycard-ask; 3 Keycards |
|  | e: K 85 | 5 | 5N | Queen-ask; Qsonly |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { A: K } 86 \\ & \text { Ү: } 87543 \end{aligned}$ | $\text { A: J } 943$ $\text { ४: QJT } 96$ | 78 |  |  |
| -: 982 | *:Q6 |  |  |  |
| 2: J T | d: 62 |  |  |  |
|  | ^ T |  |  |  |
|  | v: |  |  |  |
|  | 4: A K JT 74 |  |  |  |
|  | s: AQ9743 |  |  |  |


| Example 8: Extreme 6=6, -void |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A: K9543 | 1N | 3 |  |
|  | マ: AK4 | $3 \%$ | 4* | Shape-ask; 6=6 |
|  | *: J 3 | 4 | 5 | Keycard-ask; 2 Keycards, 2 Queens |
|  | *:A65 | 68 |  |  |
| A: AJ 87 | A: QT62 |  |  |  |
| ソ:96532 | V:QT87 |  |  |  |
| *: K 9 | *:764 |  |  |  |
| 2: 18 | *: 97 |  |  |  |
|  | A: |  |  |  |
|  | V: J |  |  |  |
|  | *:AQT852 |  |  |  |
|  | \&:KQT432 |  |  |  |



| 1 |  | 2 |  | 3 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A：T983 |  | A：AK 87 |  | ＊：J 42 |  |
| v：AKT6 |  | v：AJ3 |  | v：AK865 |  |
| ＊：KQ3 |  | －：Q43 |  | ＊：K5 |  |
| at：KT |  |  |  | $\text { : A K } 65$ |  |
|  | A：J 5 | 4：543 | A：QJT96 |  | A：QT873 |
|  | V：QJ 87 | ४：T98 | ४：K76542 | ソ：T973 | V：QJ4 |
| $\text { V: } 543$ | －T64 | ＊：T972 | － 1 | －QT 2 | －：984 |
| －：8 | \＆： 9752 | ＊：954 | \＆： 6 | ＊：J 3 | \＆： 87 |
| 4 ： |  | A： 2 |  | 4：9 |  |
| マ：92 |  | v：Q |  | v：2 |  |
| ＊：AJ975 |  | ＊：AK865 |  | ＊：AJ763 |  |
| d：AQJ643 |  | d：AQJT73 |  | \＆：KQ9654 |  |
| 4 |  | 5 |  | 6 |  |
| A：AQ76 |  | A．AT 83 |  | ＊：KQJ 7 |  |
| V：AQJT |  | V：AQ5 |  | v：94 |  |
| －Q 2 |  | ＊：QJ |  | －A 6 |  |
| ＊：Q 72 |  | 2：K 854 |  | d：AQ984 |  |
| А：KT8543 | 4： 2 | А K 9762 | A：QJ4 | －AT 98 | 4：6432 |
| V：K8743 | ท：9652 | V：J 842 | ソ：K9763 | V：AKQJT75 | V：832 |
| ＊：63 | － 174 | － 652 | ＊： 874 | － 7 | －： 1 T9 5 |
| 2 ： | d：19863 | －：Q | 2： 16 | d：T | ¢： 73 |
| 4： 19 |  | ه： 5 |  | A： 5 |  |
| \％： |  | V ：T |  | V：6 |  |
| －AKJ985：AKT54 |  | ＊：AKT93 |  | 4：KQ8432 |  |
|  |  | d：AT9732 |  | e：KJ652 |  |
| 7 |  | 8 |  | 9 |  |
| A $:$ K6¢：AKT3 |  | A：AQT 73 |  | ＊：K72 |  |
| V：AKT3 |  | V：QT8 |  | V：KQ |  |
| －Q532 |  | －Q 4 |  | 4：982 |  |
| 2：A 42 |  | 2：AQJ |  | d：AK963 |  |
| 4：QT842 | 4：AJ73 | 4：KJ9842 | ：6 | A：QT963 | А：AJ 854 |
| V：Q74 | ข：J98652 | V：A642 | V：J9753 | V：A932 | V：T7654 |
| － 7 | ＊：K 4 | ＊： 83 | －T 52 | － 6 | ＊：QJ3 |
| \＆：T876 | － 3 | －： 2 | d：K984 | 2： 142 | 3 ： |
| \＆：95 |  | 4： 5 |  | 4 ： |  |
|  |  | $\text { : A KJ } 976$ |  | V：J8 |  |
| ＊：AJT986 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2：KQJ95 |  | d： 17653 |  | $\text { \&: QT } 875$ |  |
| 10 |  | 11 |  | 12 |  |
| A：KJ5 |  | A：AKT3 |  | 4：AJ3 |  |
| V：AK7 |  | V：A76 |  | V：AQ965 |  |
|  |  | ＊：QJ6 |  | ＊：KT6 |  |
| －AT4： $\mathrm{QT97}$ |  |  |  | d：K 6 |  |
| 4：QT986 | 4：A 732 | 4： 1962 | A：Q 75 | 4：KQ72 | 4： 19854 |
| ソ：T983 | V：J6542 | V：QJ432 | ソ：KT985 | ソ：KJT432 | 『 8 |
| 4：853 | ＊：Q9 | ＊：92 | ＊：T4 | ＊： 9 | ＊：5432 |
|  | \＆： 86 | ＊： 82 | d：A 76 | －：Q9 | e：T 82 |
| 4：4 |  | 4： 84 |  | 4 ： 6 |  |
| V：Q |  | V： |  | V：7 |  |
| ＊：KJ762d：AK5432 |  | ＊：AK8753 |  | ＊：AQJ87 |  |
|  |  |  |  | \＆：AJ7543 |  |
|  |  | 14 |  | 15 |  |
|  |  | A：AKJ 8 |  | A：AJT6 |  |
|  |  | ソ：A76 |  | V：QT64－：K83 |  |
|  |  | ＊J J 6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { : K K } 83 \\ & \text { \&: A K } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| ＊：T9 4 | A：KJ732 | ＾：QT9732 | A：654 | A：Q A：K987532 |  |
| ソ：762 | V：AJ9853 | v：K932 | V：Q854 | v：AKJ8753 | V： |
| － 8 | ＊：T6 | － 8 | ＊K 952 | ＊：T | －！ 94 |
| 2．： 197654 | 4： | － 17 | d：Q 3 | －842 | 2：973 |
| 4： 6 |  | ＊： |  | A： 4 |  |
| V：4 |  | v：JT |  | V：9 |  |
| ＊：AKJ972 |  | －AQ743 |  | －AQ7652 |  |
|  |  | ＊：QJT65 |  |  |




