

GRAND SLAM FORCE

An "out of the blue" jump to 5NT is the Grand Slam Force (GSF), asking partner about his holding in the presumed trump suit. If there is doubt as to which suit that is, use the same rules as for Roman Key Card Blackwood, section 6-6.

Responses

	<u>7♣</u>	<u>6♠</u>	<u>6♥</u>	<u>6♦</u>	<u>6♣</u>
When holding,					
if the suit is spades:	AKQ	worse	AK	AQ,KQ	A or K
hearts:	AK	--	worse	AQ,KQ	A or K
diamonds:	AK	--	--	worse	AQ,KQ
clubs:	AK,KQ,AQ	--	--	--	worse

Lacking the high cards for any other response, make the "worse" bid. Note that AKQ drops out first, then "A or K."

Extra length may be counted as a queen. With two cards more than your nominal length in the suit, respond as if you had the queen. Sometimes one extra card is enough. If you have five to the king and are sure partner has five cards in the suit, you can show a KQ holding if your nominal length is four cards. You have only one extra card, but you can tell that is sufficient. Partner can now bid seven with Axxxx.

After a 6♣ bid showing "A or K," the 5NT bidder can ask for number of cards in the agreed suit by bidding 6♦:

Opener	Responder
1♠	5NT
6♣	6♦
6♥	- minimum length (four, in this case)
6♠	- one extra card (five, in this case)

The 6♣ bid shows ace or king of spades. After the 6♠ bid, showing five spades, responder can bid 7♠ with Kxxxx in trumps. Opener could not bid 6♦ (showing the queen, too) with Axxxx in spades, because responder could have just Kxxx. A 6♦ response without the queen would then require a six-card suit headed by the ace.

GSF can also be played as a non-jump bid in carefully defined circumstances. A non-jump 5NT bid should not always be GSF. When the partnership has bid three suits in a manner not strongly suggestive of slam (i.e., no strong jump takeout, no splinter bid, no opening strong two bid), and with no definite agreement on one of the suits, a non-jump 5NT bid should say merely, "Pick a slam."