

## SUPER GERBER

Because a 4♣ bid over 3NT is often needed in the natural sense, and a raise of 3NT to 4NT is usually natural, we need to devise an ace-asking convention for this awkward situation:

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♣/2♦/2♥
3NT	4♣ is natural, not Gerber
	4NT is natural, not Blackwood

How to ask for aces? Solution: Use the lowest unbid suit other than clubs, a variation of the convention known as Super Gerber:

Opener	Responder
1♦	3NT
4♣/4♦	- natural
4♥	- Super Gerber
4♠	- notrump raise, implying weakish diamonds
4NT	- notrump raise, implying good diamonds

The 4♣ rebid is too valuable as a natural bid to be used as Gerber. The 4♠ bid says that opener's diamond suit needs a good fit to be useful in a notrump slam (e.g., five cards to only one of the top three honors).

Opener	Responder
1♥	2♦
3NT	4♣ - natural
	4♠ - Super Gerber

Another sequence that needs comment:

Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠
3NT	4♣ - natural
	4♦ - Super Gerber

It is true that in this sequence 4♣ is no more valuable than 4♦ as a natural bid, but for the sake of a general rule we let 4♣ retain its natural meaning and use 4♦ to ask for aces.

Unfortunately, we must have one exception to the general rule of what bid to use for Super Gerber:

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♠
3NT	4♥ - natural, not Super Gerber
	4♣ - Gerber

The 4♥ bid in this particular sequence is too valuable as a natural bid, so we revert to 4♣ as Gerber.

## Responses

Responses are the same as for regular Gerber, except for the necessarily higher ranking of the step responses:

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♣
3NT	4♦ - Super Gerber
4♥	- 0 or 3 aces
4♠	- 1 or 4 aces
4NT	- 2 aces, 0-2 kings
5♣	- 2 aces, 3-4 kings

To inquire about kings, the lowest unbid suit (which is often the Super Gerber suit) is bid at the five level:

Opener	Responder
1♠	2♣
3NT	4♦ - Super Gerber
5♣	5♦ - asks about kings

The king-showing responses are similar to regular Gerber, except for the higher level:

Opener	Responder
1♣	3NT
4♦	4♥ - 0 or 3 aces
5♦	5♥ - 0 or 4 kings
	5♠ - ♠ king or the other three
	5NT - ♥ king or the other three
	6♣ - ♣ king or the other three
	6♦ - ♦ king or the other three
	6♥ - two kings, same color
	6♠ - two kings, same rank
	6NT - two kings, nothing in common

If the Gerber bidder returns to a suit previously bid naturally, that is a signoff, as is a notrump bid. Remember that the lowest unbid suit is used to ask for kings, sometimes saving bidding space:

Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠
3NT	4♦ - Super Gerber
4♠	4NT/5♥ - signoffs
	5♣ - asks about kings
	5♦ - forgot this agreement, asks about kings

When a strong jump takeout responder rebids 3NT, opener must use Gerber to ask for aces--since 4NT would be a raise:

Opener	Responder
1♠	3♣
3♠	3NT
4♦	is Super Gerber
4♣/4NT	- natural raise

The strong jump takeout responder cannot use Gerber, however; as his 4NT bids are always RKCB, and other bids are natural:

Opener	Responder
1NT	3♦
3NT	4NT - RKCB
	4♣/4♦/4♥ - natural, forcing