

THE GERBER CONVENTION

Purpose of this Convention: It allows a player to ask for aces when their last bid (or original bid) was in No Trump.

When your partner opens the bidding in No Trump, a bid of 4C is Gerber, asking for Aces.

The following 3 rows (highlighted in yellow) are all examples of Gerber. The **4C** bid in red is always Gerber.

Note that when Stayman or Transfers have been part of the auction, you may not now use the Blackwood (any version) so you have to use Gerber.

The opportunity to use Gerber comes up so seldom that we should always use our fingers to show our Aces after Gerber or I promise you will muss it up.

NORTH	SOUTH	NORTH	SOUTH
1NT	4C	2NT	4C
-----	-----	-----	-----
1C 1NT	1H 4C	1H 2NT	1S 4C
-----	-----	-----	-----
1D 3NT	1S 4C	2C 2NT	2D 4C

NORTH	SOUTH	NORTH	SOUTH
1C 2C 4C	1H 3N	1S 2S -----	2D 4C -----
-----	-----	-----	-----
1H 2NT 3NT	-----	-----	-----
-----	2C 3C 4C -----	-----	-----

4C here is not Gerber as the partnership has shown a REAL Club suit (rebid of Clubs) AND a minimum opening bid.

4C is not Gerber here as NT has never been bid.

See above: This is NOT Gerber

RESPONSES TO GERBER

NORTH

1NT

4D

4H

4S

4NT

SOUTH

4C

0 or 4 Aces

1 Ace

2 Aces

3 Aces

IF YOU HAVE ALL
THE ACES &
POTENTIAL FOR
GRAND SLAM

5C

0 or 4 Kings

1 King

2 Kings

3 Kings

5D

5H

5S

5NT

With thanks to Rob Hanley who provided the hands in Gerber and the idea for the article.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BIDS IS WRONG? Hands and bids by Larry Cohen. Commentary by Barbara www.larryco.com

1)

West

S KQ82

H A2

D QJ764

C 65

West

1D

3S

Pass

East

S AJ76

H K43

D 82

C J842

East

1S

4S

Which bid(s) is wrong?

- a) 1D
- b) 1S
- c) 3S
- d) 4S
- e) More than one of the above

2)

West

S KQ76
H A2
D AK865
C K5

West

1D
4S

East

S AJ932
H K43
D J2
C A82

East

1S
Pass

Which bid(s) is wrong?

- a) 1D
- b) 1S
- c) 4S
- d) Pass
- e) None of the above
- f) More than one of the above

ANSWERS

1)

c) is wrong. West promised 16-18 points (including distribution) for this bid. He has only 14, including 2 dummy points. As a result, East (correctly) accepted West's invitation to game and this is not a makeable game. West should raise to 2S only, showing three or four card support and a minimum hand. (Yes, you CAN raise, as opener with only 3 cards if you are unable to bid NT.)

2)

d) is wrong. West bid 4S in spite of the fact that East may have had only 6 points. Thus his bid is promising 19 or 20 points. This is NOT a shut out bid. East should now explore slam, preferably using control bidding (because of her two small Diamonds) or if you have not learned that, then at least by bidding Blackwood.

Final Question from last week: *This one was in last week's newsletter but I gave you the wrong answer. Only one person noticed! Way to go, Pam. Here is correct answer.*

d) is wrong. In order to raise Opener's second suit, Responder must ALWAYS have four cards in that suit. East may not raise Opener's second suit with only three cards EVER. In case

Opener has only four, which is so often the case. East should have bid 2NT. West will then rebid 3H and East will now raise to 4H.

You see, when East raised to 3H, West will continue to 4H with only H Axxx. This would be ugly. So, if you want your telephone to ring, remember this rule.

BIDDING PUZZLEMENT

S	W	N	E
1D	Pass	Pass	1H
1NT			

REBID BY OPENER

So many of you had trouble with this question in last week's quiz and may not have seen the full answer. It needs to be grasped and fully understood.

How many points is opening bidder (South) showing by his second bid (1NT) above?

- a) 12-14 HCP
- b) 15-17 HCP
- c) 18-19 HCP

ANSWER

c) is correct.

This is a rebid by the opener. If auction goes

1D - 1S

1NT This shows 12-14 HCP

S N

1D - 1S

2NT This shows 18-19 HCP

BUT when Responder PASSED Opener's opening bid, he is now promising 0-5 pts. The brakes go on and we (the Opener) must be very cautious now.

When East overcalls 1H, S with a minimum hand must pass because $13 + 0-5 = \text{NOT enough}$ to make 1NT. The bad guys have more points than your side does.

AND if South had had 15-17 HCP, he would have opened 1NT.

Ergo, in the auction given, for South to rebid 1NT, **even though partner showed 0-5 points**, this bid now shows 18-19 HCP and at least one stopper in Hearts (opponent's suit).