

Preempt Roman Keycard Blackwood (Kevin Wilson Interpretation)

Sometimes you are interested in slam after partner opens with a weak two or a 3-level preempt. You would like to be able to check for key cards without going too high when opener has a bad hand. You can add this convention and then use a bid of 4♣ after a preempt to solve this problem without giving up much.

After partner's opening preempt bid of 2♦, 2♥, 2♠, 3♦, 3♥, or 3♠, a bid of 4♣ by the responder initiates Preempt Roman Keycard Blackwood. Since opener's preempt can't have three key cards (he would open at the one-level), the responses by Opener are modified as follows:

- 4♦ = 0 key cards
- 4♥ = 1 key card without the trump queen
- 4♠ = 1 key card and the trump queen
- 4NT = two key cards without the trump queen
- 5♣ = two key cards and the trump queen

The 4♣ bidder can then place the contract or ask for kings with a 5♣ bid (infrequent). Remember that this occurs after an opening preempt so don't get too excited about the opener having a lot of outside cards. You should have a good idea of what you will do before you initiate with 4♣.

After specifically a response showing zero key cards, the 4♣ bidder may ask about the Queen of the Trump suit by bidding the next step (4♥ or 4♠ only when clubs is the trump suit).

Opener	Responder
2♠	4♣
4♦	4♥ (Queen Asking Bid)

Opener will then continue as follows:

Without the trump queen, he bids the trump suit at the cheapest level.

With the trump queen, opener will bid any outside king that he holds promising that king AND the trump queen.

With the trump queen but no outside kings, opener will jump in the agreed trump suit.

After a 3♣ Opening Preempt Only

This convention does not initiate with 4♣ over opener's preemptive bid of 3♣, because it is preferable to keep a 4♣ bid to further the club preempt. In this situation (only a 3♣ opening preempt by partner), the Preempt Roman Keycard Blackwood initiation bid becomes 4♦.

Example 1:

N deals
EW vul

♠ K3
♥ KJ8532
♦ J87
♣ 42

♠ A8764
♥ Q4
♦ K542
♣ 107

♠ QJ1092
♥ 9
♦ Q1063
♣ 865

♠ 5
♥ A1076
♦ A9
♣ AKQJ93

W	N	E	S	
	2♥	pass	4♣ (1)	4♣ = Preempt Roman Kay Card Blackwood
Pass	4♥ (2)	pass	6♥	4♥ = 1 key card without the ♥Q
All pass				

Example 2:

N deals
NS vul

♠ 32
♥ A32
♦ 8
♣ QJ108652

♠ A864
♥ Q965
♦ 7652
♣ 3

♠ J75
♥ J874
♦ J1094
♣ 97

♠ KQ109
♥ K10
♦ AKQ3
♣ AK4

W	N	E	S	
	3♣	pass	4♦ (1)	4♦ = Preempt Roman Kay Card Blackwood
Pass	4NT (2)	pass	6NT	4NT = 1 key card and the ♣Q
All pass				