

Your choice: Thursdays at 9:30am or 4:15pm

- **Jan 8: Filling out the Convention Card**
- **Jan 15: Signaling (Carding), Etiquette, Procedures & Leads**
- **Jan 22: Bergen raises**
- **Jan 29: Jacoby 2NT**
- **Feb 5: New Minor Forcing**
- **Feb 12: Recap Negative, Takeout + Support Doubles**
- **Feb 19: 4th Suit Forcing**
- **Feb 26: Recap Rules of 7, 11, 15, 17, 22 + more**
- **Mar 5: Recap Cue Bids**

Fourth suit forcing

Larry Cohen says: “Fourth Suit Forcing should be part of any player’s arsenal.

I wouldn’t even think of it as a convention. It is really a necessity.”

What is 4th suit forcing?

It's a highly popular artificial convention used by the **responder** to create, at **his 2nd turn to bid**, a forcing-to-game auction. It occurs when the partnership **bid 3 different suits** and the responder bids the **4th unbid suit**. The 4th suit bid is totally artificial and **must be alerted**.

Key Aspects of 4th suit forcing

Definition: When three suits have been bid by your side, the responder's bid of the fourth (unbid) suit is artificial, showing strength rather than length in that suit.

Forcing to Game: In most modern partnerships, FSF is considered forcing to game.

4th suit forcing not used:

- If one partner is previously a passed hand
- After a 2/1 response
- When opponents intervene

2 important points:

1. Only the responder can use 4th suit forcing, never the opener.
2. Only used at the 2 level.

3 Invitational hands – not forcing

Opener

Responder

1♦

1♥

1♠

3♥

1♣

1♥

1♠

3♣

1♣

1♥

1♠

3♠

Example 1

Opener

1♦

2♣

Responder

1♠

?

Responder's hand:

♠AQ862

♥84

♦QJ7

♣A65

What bid should he make?

How does he make a forcing bid?

Example 2

Opener

1♣

1♠

Responder

1♥

?

Responder's hand:

♠AQ3

♥AK43

♦T98

♣432





What bid should he make?

























How does he make a forcing bid?

Opener's responses

Opener responds to the ***fourth suit forcing*** by (in prioritized order):

1. Raising responder's first bid suit with 3-card support,
2. Rebidding a 6-card suit,
3. Bidding notrump with stopper(s) in the fourth suit,
4. Making the most natural rebid possible, lacking any of the above.

You open 1 , partner bids 1  and you rebid 1 , partner bids 2  (**4th suit forcing to game**)
what do you bid with the following hands?

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1.  T982 |  AK2 |  AJ32 |  Q2 |
| 2.  AJT9 |  A |  J932 |  KJ84 |
| 3.  AK32 |  AT9 |  QJT98 |  T |
| 4.  KQJT |  AT |  QJT9 |  KQ2 |
| 5.  A987 |  2 |  KQJT98 |  K2 |
| 6.  AKQ2 |  32 |  KJT9 |  KJT |

You open 1♥, partner bids 1♠ and you rebid 2♣,
partner bids 2♦ (**4th suit forcing to game**)
what do you bid with the following hands?

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|------|--------|
| 7. ♠432 | ♥AKJT9 | ♦T | ♣AQ32 |
| 8. ♠QT9 | ♥AKJT9 | ♦- | ♣QJT9 |
| 9. ♠T9 | ♥AKJT98 | ♦- | ♣AJT98 |
| 10. ♠T9 | ♥AKQT9 | ♦A | ♣QJT |
| 11. ♠T | ♥AQT98 | ♦AQ2 | ♣QJT9 |
| 12. ♠- | ♥AKQJT98 | ♦2 | ♣KJT98 |

Next week

Recap Rules of 7, 11, 15 etc.