

CONVENTIONS

4th SUIT FORCING Game Force

Bridge Lab

with the Monroes

4TH SUIT FORCING

Artificial and Forcing to Game

After three suits are bid by the partnership, Responder's bid of the only unbid suit - the 4th Suit - is artificial and forcing to game.

- ✓ The 4th Suit is bid by Responder on the 2-level or higher.

USE 4th SUIT FORCING

- ✓ After three suits are bid, and Responder is unclear about HOW HIGH and WHERE the contract should be played.
 - Responder has game forcing values, may have interest in slam.

DON'T USE 4th SUIT FORCING

- ⊗ If Responder knows HOW HIGH and WHERE the contract belongs, just bid it.
- ⊗ If Responder does not have enough values to commit the partnership to game.
- ⊗ If Responder is a passed hand.
- ⊗ If the opponents are competing in the auction.

OPENER'S OPTIONS After the Artificial 4th SUIT FORCING

Opener bids slowly and naturally - make a constructive informational bid to explore for the best contract.

- Bid NoTrump - With a stopper - strength or length - in the 4th Suit.
 - Responder's bid of the 4th Suit is artificial and *does not* show a stopper or length in the 4th Suit.
- Support Responder's suit - delayed raise with 3-card support.
- Rebid one of Opener's previously bid suits with extra length and no better option.

♠ SPADES is the 4 th Suit	
SPECIAL EXCEPTION	Natural at 1-LEVEL
	4th Suit Forcing at 2-LEVEL
	1♣ - pass - 1♦ - pass
	1♥ - pass - 1♠*
	1♣ pass 1♦ pass
	1♥ pass 2♠*
	*1♠ = Natural (four spades), forcing for one-round.
	*2♠ = Artificial, forcing to game.

Bridge With The Monroes

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4th SUIT FORCING

North Deals

	♠ A 7 6 2		
	♥ 3		
	♦ K Q J 10 8 5		
	♣ Q 6		
♠ Q J 10 4	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 9 8 5	
♥ 7 5 4		♥ K J 10 8	
♦ 9 7 2		♦ 4	
♣ A J 8		♣ K 10 9 5 3	
	♠ K 3		
	♥ A Q 9 6 2		
	♦ A 6 3		
	♣ 7 4 2		

12
8 7
13

NS 5♦; NS 2N; NS 2♥; NS 1♠; Par +400

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	All pass	

1. 4th Suit Forcing to game, artificial. Says nothing about ♣s.
2. Denies ♣ stopper, denies ♥ support.

Contract: 5♦ North **Opening Lead:** ♣ 5 (unbid suit)

Tricks Needed: 11 **North's Losers:** ♠=2, ♣=2 **Eliminate:** Ruff two ♠s in Dummy

Auction. South has an opening hand and once North opens the bidding, South knows at least game must be reached. After three suits are bid, South is unclear about which game contract is best. 3NT, 4♥, even 5♦ are all possibilities. South bids 2♣, the 4th Suit, as an artificial game forcing bid, to get more information from Opener. The 1st priority for Opener is to bid NT with a ♣ stopper. The 2nd priority is to make a delayed raise to 3♥ with 3-card support. Unable to bid NoTrump or raise ♥s, Opener rebids the original ♦ suit to show length, deny the ♣ stopper, and deny ♥ support.

Opening Lead. The auction is revealing. Neither Opener nor Responder has shown ♣ values by failure to bid NoTrump in the auction, and Opener has fewer than three ♥s. Lead the known weak ♣ suit - the defenders' strong suit.

Delayed Raise. An immediate raise of Responder's suit shows a fit with 4-card support. A subsequent "delayed" raise of Responder's suit shows a 3-card fit. Responder avoids rebidding a 5-card suit and relies on Opener to make the delayed raise if appropriate to find the 5-3 fit.

4th Suit Forcing - Game Force

Board 1

North Deals

♠ 9 6 2 ♥ A 10 7 3 ♦ Q 10 9 ♣ 6 4 2 14 6 7 13	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 8 4 3 ♥ K ♦ A K 8 5 2 ♣ A 9 5 3 ♠ 10 7 ♥ Q J 9 8 4 ♦ J 4 3 ♣ K 8 7 ♠ A K Q J 5 ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ Q J 10	
N	E						
W	S						

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥ ¹
Pass	2 ♠ ²	Pass	4 ♠

All pass

1. 4th Suit Forcing, 13+ Points
2. 3-♠s

Contract: 4 ♠ South, 10 Tricks

Lead: ♣ 2, Not a ♥ A or away from the ♥ A

Losers: 3-♥, 1-♣ = 4.

Play: South loses the ♣ finesse, and plays ♥s. After ruffing a ♥ in dummy, South draws trump, and discards a ♥ on the 4th ♣ in Dummy. The ♦ AK win.

Board 2

East Deals

♠ 9 8 5 ♥ K J 10 8 ♦ 4 ♣ K 10 9 5 3 13 7 8 12	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ K 3 ♥ A Q 9 6 2 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ 7 4 2 ♠ Q J 10 4 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ A J 8 ♠ A 7 6 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K Q J 10 8 5 ♣ Q 6	
N	E						
W	S						

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	5 ♦

All pass

1. 4th Suit Forcing
2. Denies ♣ stopper, ♥ support

Contract: 5 ♦ South, 11 Tricks

Lead: ♣ 5, Unbid suit

Losers: 2-♠, 2-♣ = 4.

Play: South loses two ♣s, ruffs the third ♣, wins the ♠ K, (short side first), the ♠ A, ruffs a ♠, returns with the ♦ K, ruffs a ♠ with the ♦ A, draws trump, and wins ♥ A.

Board 3

South Deals

♠ Q 7 4 2 ♥ 10 9 3 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ A 10 9 13 9 5 13	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ K 10 6 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A K 5 4 3 ♣ J 5 3 ♠ J 5 3 ♥ A 7 6 2 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ 8 4 2 ♠ A 9 8 ♥ K J 5 4 ♦ 8 7 ♣ K Q 7 6	
N	E						
W	S						

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♠ ¹	Pass	2 N ²
Pass	3 N	All pass	

1. 4th Suit Forcing, 13+ Points, Artificial
2. ♠ Stopper

Contract: 3 NT South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♠ 2, 4th Highest, 4th suit

Sure Tricks: 2-♠, 2-♦ = 4.

Play: South plays second hand low and wins the ♠ A when East plays high, ♠ J. South promotes ♥ and ♣ tricks, finesses the ♠ Q, and wins the ♦ AK.

Board 4

West Deals

♠ Q J 6 3 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ K 10 3 12 9 4 15	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 7 ♥ Q 8 7 ♦ A K 6 3 2 ♣ Q J 6 5 ♠ A 9 8 4 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ 7 4 ♣ 9 8 4 2 ♠ K 10 5 ♥ A K 10 5 4 ♦ J 9 5 ♣ A 7	
N	E						
W	S						

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠ ¹
Pass	3 ♥ ²	Pass	4 ♥

All pass

1. 4th Suit Forcing, 13+ Points
2. 3-♥s

Contract: 4 ♥ South, 10 Tricks

Lead: ♠ Q, Top of 2-card sequence

Losers: 3-♠, 1-♥, 1-♦, 1-♣ = 6.

Play: The ♠ K wins (free finesse), dummy ruffs a ♠, draws trump, and the long ♦s become winners for a ♣ discard.