

KANTAR'S RULES ABOUT ASKING FOR ACES
AFTER ONE PARTNER BIDS NO TRUMPS
By Maritha Pottenger

1. A bid of 4NT over 1NT, 2NT, or 3NT is always quantitative. Bid 6NT if you are maximum. Pass if you are minimum. Show a 4-card minor if you have the middle range of HCP and like your hand. A bid of 4NT over 1NT, 2NT or 3NT is NEVER asking for Aces.
2. A bid of 4C over 1NT or 2NT is Gerber. (4D shows 0 or 4 Aces; 4H shows 1 Ace; 4S shows 2 Aces and 4NT shows 3 Aces.)
3. Over 3NT, a jump to 5C is Gerber because 4C is Stayman. (5D shows 0 or 4 Aces; 5H shows 1 Ace; 5S shows 2 Aces and 5NT shows 3 Aces.)
4. After a 1NT or 2NT opening followed by a 2C or 3C Stayman inquiry, a 4NT bid by responder is quantitative (invitational to 6NT). For example, after 1NT-2C-2H, 4N is **quantitative**.
5. After a 1NT opening and 2C Stayman inquiry, a jump to 4C is Gerber (Ace-asking).
6. After a 2NT opening and 3C Stayman inquiry, a jump to 5C is Gerber (Ace-asking)—unless you have a different agreement with your partner.
7. In all other cases, 5C is NOT asking for Aces.
8. To make a quantitative invitation to partner, subtract your HCP from 33. If partner's known point count (e.g., 15-17 or 20-21 or 22-24 or 25-27) is inside the range of your answer, you should be exploring for slam. If partner's minimum possible count is the answer you get (e.g., you have 18 HCP and partner opened 1NT), you must drive the partnership to slam. If partner's maximum possible count is the answer, you should invite slam with a quantitative bid (e.g., you have 16 HCP and partner opened 1NT).
9. Remember the power of the 4-4 fit! Check for 4-4 major fits with Stayman. Be willing to bid 4-card minors over the 4NT (quantitative) invitational bid. Bidding good minor suit slams is a profit center.
10. After a 1NT opening and a Jacoby Transfer, Kantar suggests that 4NT is quantitative and 4C is Gerber. After a 2NT opening and a Jacoby Transfer, Kantar suggests that 5C is Gerber.
11. Bonus: After a Texas Transfer, e.g. 1N-4D-4H, 4N is ace (or keycard) asking, not quantitative. This is because your side must have an 8+ fit in the major, 6+ from responder and 2+ from opener.