

Baby Blackwood

After any one-level suit opening, a jump to 3NT is not really needed (you can always bid something and then bid 3NT). So some players play this as Blackwood. This is ideal when you have a responding hand that is looking for slam but has no aces (so that a zero response gets you too high).

Example 1

| West | East | West | East |
|---------|-----------|------|------|
| ♠ KJ96 | ♠ 5 | 1♥ | 3NT |
| ♥ A9876 | ♥ KQ54 | 4♦ | 4♥ |
| ♦ 104 | ♦ KQJ9873 | pass | |
| ♣ KQ | ♣ J | | |

Example 2

| West | East | West | East |
|---------|-----------|------|------|
| ♠ KJ96 | ♠ 5 | 1♥ | 3NT |
| ♥ A9876 | ♥ KQ54 | 4♥ | pass |
| ♦ A10 | ♦ KQJ9873 | | |
| ♣ 95 | ♣ J | | |

Example 3

| West | East | West | East |
|---------|-----------|------|------|
| ♠ A96 | ♠ 5 | 1♥ | 3NT |
| ♥ A9876 | ♥ KQ54 | 4♠ | 6♥ |
| ♦ A104 | ♦ KQJ9873 | pass | |
| ♣ 95 | ♣ J | | |

It is best not to play Roman responses, as 4♠ showing two aces and the trump queen may be too high if ♥'s are trumps; and responder may not actually be angling to play in the major opened and so not interested in the 'trump' king.

So keep it simple; 4♣ = 0/4, 4♦ = 1, 4♥ = 2, 4♠ = 3. A subsequent 4NT asks for kings.

Baby Blackwood may also be used after a minor suit opening.

And Baby Blackwood may also be used when a 9-card major suit has been found, for example the sequence: -

1♥ - 3♥ - 3NT or 1♠ - 3♠ - 3NT. 3NT cannot realistically be to play as responder presumably has 4 trumps or else a definite desire to play in the suit contract. Note that it's not the same after 1♥ - 2♥ or 1♠ - 2♠ as then responder has only promised 3 card support and 3NT is natural, offering that as an alternative contract to 4 of the major.