

Quantitative 4NT - Turbo Charged

Most every player has learned that when partner opens 1NT or 2NT that a response of 4NT is not ace asking. It is invitational to slam. It is referred to as: Quantitative NT. Opener has two options:

1. Pass with a minimum hand, 15HCP or a flat 16HCP.
2. Bid 6NT with maximum hand, 17HCP or a robust 16HCP.

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT	4NT	1NT	4NT
Pass		6NT	

That is pretty straight forward. Pass or bid 6NT. Your decision is all based entirely on the evaluation of how good your 15-17 points is.

However, there is a very clever agreement that my partner and I have which we refer to as a Minor Suit Slam Locator. If we decide to pass – then that is it. We play in 4NT.

However, if we decide that we want to accept partner's invitation to bid slam – why not add a few steps in between 4NT and bidding 6NT? There is a lot of room to reveal more about the nature of your hand. For example, I played this hand in 6NT:

<u>North</u>		
♠	J1096	
♥	Q983	
♦	10987	
♣	2	
<u>West</u> (me)		<u>Partner</u>
♠	A5	♠ K82
♥	KJ2	♥ A7
♦	AJ4	♦ KQ3
♣	K10843	♣ QJ976
<u>South</u>		
♠	Q743	
♥	10654	
♦	652	
♣	A5	

The Auction:

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
1NT	pass	4NT	pass
6NT	all pass		

I liked my chunky 16-count with a 5-card club suit and accepted the invitation by bidding 6NT. North led the ♠J. Unfortunately, I only had 11 top tricks. I could see how easy 6♣ was – and I tinkered around for a while before finally taking the heart finesse. When this failed – so did the contract. This hand is from a Can-At in Quebec City back in the late 80's. Our team was Gylfi, me Leo and Peter Clark. I remember it well because it cost us the semi-final match in the main Knock-out - against a top team (they were in 6♣). We lost the match by 7 imps – and this hand alone cost us 16 imps! It was a tough loss for our team. Years later – I discovered an innovative response system to 4NT Quantitative. It would have allowed us to find the club slam after the 4NT bid. If only I had known it back then.

Minor Suit Slam Locater

The reason this is isolated to locating a minor suit slam (and not a major suit slam) is because responder could have bid Stayman over 1NT or a Jacoby Transfer. Hence it is inferred that we do not have a major suit fit.

This is the response structure:

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
	1NT	
4NT	pass	“I have a minimum hand – and decline your invitation to bid slam.”
	5♣	“I accept your invitation. I have a 4-card club suit.” (could have 4 diamonds)
	5♦	“I accept your invitation. I have 4 diamonds – but deny holding 4 clubs.”
	6♣	“I accept your invitation. I have a 5-card club suit.”
	6♦	“I accept your invitation. I have a 5-card diamond suit.”
	6NT	“I have a maximum hand and no 4+ card minor suit.”

Example Auctions:

1

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT	4NT
5♣	5♦
6♦	pass

2

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT	4NT
6♣	pass

3

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT	4NT
6NT	

4

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT	4NT
5♦	6NT

5

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT	4NT
5♣	6♣

6

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1NT	4NT
5♣	5♦
6NT	

In all the above auctions, North has accepted the invitation to slam. Hence - a maximum hand.

1. North has a 4-card club suit. South has shown a 4-card diamond suit. North's bid of 6♦ reveals she also has a 4-card diamond suit.
2. North shows a 5-card club suit and South passes - happy to find the club fit.
3. North denies holding a 4-card or a 5-card minor suit.
4. North denies holding 4-clubs - but has a 4-card diamond suit. South wants to play in 6NT.
5. North has a 4-card club suit. South's bid of 6♣ reveals her stance.
6. North has shown a 4-card club suit – but denies holding a 4-card diamond suit.

Distinguishing Quantitative, Blackwood and Gerber:

1NT - 4NT Quantitative

1NT - 4♣ Gerber

2NT - 4NT Quantitative

2NT - 4♣ Gerber

1NT - 2♦/♥ Jacoby Transfer to Hearts/Spades

2♥/♠ - 4NT Quantitative, partner passes or bids on with extras values/length.

1NT - 4♦/♥ Texas Transfer

4♥/♠ - 4NT Blackwood

2♣ - 2♦

2NT - 4NT Quantitative

2♣ - 2♦

4NT Blackwood (unless you play it as balanced 28-30)

1NT - 2♣

2♥ - 4NT Quantitative

1NT - 2♣

2♥ - 4♣ Gerber

Quiz on Quantitative 4NT

State your second bid on each of these hands.

1.

♠ Q J 5
♥ K J 6
♦ 10 8 3
♣ A K Q 7

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	4NT
?	

5.

♠ K J 8 2
♥ A K 2
♦ K Q 9 7
♣ A Q

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
2NT	4NT
?	

2.

♠ K Q 4
♥ A Q 10 2
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ 9 5

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	4♣
?	

6.

♠ A J 8 2
♥ K J 9 2
♦ A 2
♣ A 8 4

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	4♣
?	

3.

♠ A J 7
♥ K 2
♦ A Q 9 7 6
♣ Q 10 2

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	4NT
?	

7.

♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ A K
♦ A J 10 9 5
♣ A Q

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
2NT	4NT
?	

4.

♠ A K 9 3
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ A 9 2
♣ A 5

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	4NT
?	

8.

♠ A J 8 2
♥ K J 9 2
♦ A 2
♣ Q 8 4

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	4NT
?	