



The forcing fourth suit

The forcing fourth suit

is used by the responder in the second round after the opener has bid two suits. This bid asks the opener for more information to find the best game contract.

Be careful! Dominique advises you to use the forcing fourth suit as a game-forcing bid until you are a first series player.

Like all artificial bids, the forcing fourth suit is only used when no natural bid is possible. For example, if a forcing support bid exists, you must use that.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣			



Problem E1355 [The game-forcing fourth suit](#) guarantees neither length nor honors, but only a hand with 12HCP or more.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♦			



Problem E1591 [4 th Forcing fourth suit](#) to find the right contract to play: NT or in a suit?



The forcing fourth suit

When should you use the forcing fourth suit?

With a sufficiently strong hand to go to game.

- You therefore need at least 12HCP (sometimes only 11HCP but strong).
- It doesn't guarantee anything in that suit.
- It asks for more information from the opener.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣			



Problem E1355 2 ♣ here is a game-forcing fourth suit which allows the responder to show his powerful hand and a possibility of slam.

S	W	N	E
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♦			



Problem E1591 3 ♦ is the forcing fourth suit to find the best contract to play: NT or a suit?



The forcing fourth suit

The following bids:

The opener's rebid after a forcing fourth suit. The first priority is to announce a three-card support for the responder's major. If he has stoppers in the fourth suit, he can bid 2NT or 3NT. If he has five cards in his second suit, he repeats it. With no other available bid, he repeats his opening suit. To rebid a minor with jump he needs at least six cards.

S	W	N	E
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♥			



Problem E5653 3 ♥ Support for the responder's first suit is the priority after a forcing fourth suit.

S	W	N	E
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥			



Problem E9401 The 2 ♥ support is better than the 2NT bid (with stoppers in clubs)



The forcing fourth suit

The following bids:

The opener's rebid after a forcing fourth suit.

S	W	N	E
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠			

A	K	J	10	6	5	7	3	2	A	7	3	2
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E5658 2 ♠ Repeating his major in no way promises five cards. It only shows that he doesn't have three hearts, nor a stopper in clubs and that his diamonds are so-so.