



Controls

Controls are used when a slam seems possible and before the Blackwood

The principles :

- A suit is controlled when there is no (or maximum 1) trick to lose on a lead in this suit.
- Controls are always bid in an economic sequence : skipping one is a control denial.
- When a suit is not controlled (by none of the players) the last player to bid gets back to the trump suit. It's a Stop.
- No Blackwood if a control is missing.



S	W	N	E
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass			



Exercise E6197 3 ♠ first control

4 ♣ = ♣ control

N doesn't control ♦ (he would name it) ; S neither. The contract is going to be 4 ♥.



Controls

Different control types

- A void or a singleton are controls for a trump contract, obviously not in NT.
- Aces and Ks are efficient controls in a trump or NT contract.
- Aces and voids are 1st round controls, singletons and Ks are 2nd round controls

A	5	2	Q	9	4	A	3	A	10	6	4	3
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦

S	W	N	E
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
7 ♥			

K	Q	4	A	K	J	8	2	K	Q	4	2	5
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦

Exercise E6224

3 ♠ = control

4 ♣ = control

4 NT = Blackwood

5 ♣ 3 or 0 key

5 ♦ "collante" to check if the partner holds the Q.





































Controls


When is a bid a control bid ?

With a fit, when a trump suit has been clearly agreed, and when naming a new suit is going above game level.


Or when the pair strength is well defined and high enough to think of a slam.

4	3	A	J	6	K	A	Q	J	9	5	3	2
												
S	W	N	E									
1 	Pass	1 	Pass									
3 	Pass	3 	Pass									
4 	Pass	4 	Pass									
4 	Pass	4 NT	Pass									
5 	Pass	7 NT	Pass									
Pass	Pass											
A	6	5	Q	A	Q	J	10	6	4	K	10	4
												

Exercise E6293

4  showing a fit

4  =  control

4  = control

S has shown the missing control... N goes for the Blackwood : 4 NT. 5  : 3 keys



Controls

Getting back to the trump suit

may mean :

- a slam denial because a control is missing
- a lack of the following control



S	W	N	E
1♥	2♣	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass			



Exercise 6633 4♥ : N has initiated the slam bids sequence, but has no ♠ control. S hasn't got it neither.. no slam. S would have bid 4 NT (Blackwood) if he had had the control.



S	W	N	E
			1♦
2♦	Pass	2♥	3♣
4♣	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♥			



Exercise E6642 N hasn't got ♦ control (he would have bid it !) : the contract to be played is 5♥.