

## FINCH CINCH - A PROGRESSIVE SLAM\GAME SYSTEM

Replacing Gerber, (Roman) Keycard and Blackwood by using progressive bids. There are ALWAYS 5 Keycards involved, the 4 Aces, PLUS the KING of the 'agreed' trump suit, which if not already established or implied becomes the LAST NATURAL partnership bid suit, otherwise "Trumps" automatically default to ♣s.

### RESPONSES TO 4♣ BID BY INITIATOR (and Further Bids/Responses).

4♦ = 0 (or 3) Keycards;

4♥ = 1 (or 4) Keycards;

4♠ = 2 (or 5) Keycards without Trump QUEEN;

but with the Trump QUEEN bid as per King Bidding below ('Next Bid up' is 4NT).

After a 4♦, 4♥ or 4♠ reply, the initiator can now "sign-off" in game in "trumps", or, bid the NEXT "Non-Trump" bid up, and responder bids as per King Bidding below.

After a 4♦ or 4♥ response only (the 2 replies that don't include the Trump Queen), the initiator can also bid the 2nd "Non-Trump" bid up, to ask about the trump QUEEN, and, without the trump QUEEN, responder calls the NEXT bid up, but, with the trump QUEEN, bids as per King Bidding below ('Next Bid up' now being the 'Next Next Bid up').

If the trump QUEEN is not held, the initiator can now "sign-off", or seeking a SLAM, bid the NEXT "Non-Trump" bid up, and responder bids as per King Bidding below.

After a 4♦ reply and with (♣s or ♦s) as trumps, the initiator can bid GAME in 4NT.

### King Bidding:-

'Next Bid up' with 0 (or 3) of the other 3 Kings ("trump" King already accounted for);  
2 bids up with either the Lowest, OR (the Middle and Highest of the other 3 Kings);  
3 bids up with either the Middle, OR (the Lowest and Highest of the other 3 Kings);  
4 bids up with either the Highest, OR (the Lowest and Middle of the other 3 Kings).

"Kings" can be shown in 4 ways; with 2 Keycards + Trump Queen; replying to a "NEXT" Non-Trump bid; during a 2nd "Non-Trump" Queen ask, or, after a denial of Trump Queen possession.

The beauty is, if for example ♥s are trumps, and your partner replies showing they have either the highest King (K♠) only, OR, they have both the lowest and the middle 2 Kings (K♣ and K♦) of the 3 remaining (K♥ excluded); then if you have the K♠, then they must have both the K♣ and K♦, OR, if you've either the K♣ or K♦, then they've got the K♠ only (neither K♣ nor K♦).

What SUIT should be considered "Trumps" in any Keycard system? Last genuine (non-artificial) SUIT bid if any, (the suit before, if No Trumps was last). However, if one suit has been bid twice – by the same or both players – that should be "Trumps" (and if 2 suits bid twice then the later bid suit takes precedence), unless the opener opened STRONG then "Trumps" are their REAL suit.

If no REAL suit has yet been bid, e.g. an artificial strong 2 opening, 2♣ - 4♣, then ♣s are "Trumps", or 1NT - 2♦ (♥ transfer) - 4♣, then, ♥s are the inferred "Trumps".

When a 2-suiter 5/5 overcall has been made and the "trumps" have not been decided, assume the higher suit (usually a major) to be trumps when using Finch Cinch.

INITIATOR	RESPONDER	MEANING	Keycards	KINGS	Highest	Possible	Bids	Keycards
4♣	4♦	<b>0</b> of the 5 <b>Keycards (4 Aces + King of Trumps)</b>	(or 3)		4♦			5
	4♥	<b>1</b> only of the 5 <b>Keycards</b>	(or 4)		4♥			5
	4♠	<b>"2 - "</b> 2 Keycards <b>minus Queen of Trumps</b>	(or "5 - ")		4♠			6
	4NT	(2 Keycards + Trump Queen +) <b>0 of 3 Kings left</b>	(or 5+)	or (ALL <b>3</b> Kings)	4NT			9
	5♣	(2 Keycards + Trump Queen +) <b>Lowest King only</b>	(or 5+)	or ( <b>M</b> + <b>H</b> )	5♣			9
	5♦	(2 Keycards + Trump Queen +) <b>Middle King only</b>	(or 5+)	or ( <b>L</b> + <b>H</b> )	5♦			9
	5♥	(2 Keycards + Trump Queen +) <b>Highest King only</b>	(or 5+)	or ( <b>L</b> + <b>M</b> )	5♥			9

		may be followed by:-						
		may be followed by:-						
Next <b>NON-TRUMP</b> Bid Up	after 4♦/4♥/4♠	the 3 remaining KINGS?						
could be 4♥ or 4♠ or 4NT	Next Bid Up	<b>0</b> of 3 Kings left		or (ALL <b>3</b> )	4♠	4NT	5♣	8 or 9
	2 Bids Up	<b>Lowest King only</b>		or ( <b>M</b> + <b>H</b> )	4NT	5♣	5♦	8 or 9
	3 Bids Up	<b>Middle King only</b>		or ( <b>L</b> + <b>H</b> )	5♣	5♦	5♥	8 or 9
	4 Bids Up	<b>Highest King only</b>		or ( <b>L</b> + <b>M</b> )	5♦	5♥	5♠	8 or 9

		may be followed by:-						
		QUEEN of TRUMPS?						
<b>2nd NON-TRUMP</b> Bid Up	after 4♦ or 4♥							
could be 4♠ or 4NT	Next Bid Up	<b>NO</b> Queen of Trumps			4NT	5♣		6
	2 Bids Up	(Trump Queen +) <b>0 of 3 Kings left</b>		or (ALL <b>3</b> )	5♣	5♦		9
	3 Bids Up	(Trump Queen +) <b>Lowest King only</b>		or ( <b>M</b> + <b>H</b> )	5♦	5♥		9
	4 Bids Up	(Trump Queen +) <b>Middle King only</b>		or ( <b>L</b> + <b>H</b> )	5♥	5♠		9
	5 Bids Up	(Trump Queen +) <b>Highest King only</b>		or ( <b>L</b> + <b>M</b> )	5♠	5NT		9

		COULD also be followed by:-						
		the 3 remaining KINGS?						
Next <b>NON-TRUMP</b> Bid Up	after 4NT or 5♣							
could be 5♣ or 5♦ or 5♥	Next Bid Up	<b>0</b> of 3 Kings left		or (ALL <b>3</b> )	5♦	5♥	5♠	9
	2 Bids Up	<b>Lowest King only</b>		or ( <b>M</b> + <b>H</b> )	5♥	5♠	5NT	9
	3 Bids Up	<b>Middle King only</b>		or ( <b>L</b> + <b>H</b> )	5♠	5NT	6♣	9
	4 Bids Up	<b>Highest King only</b>		or ( <b>L</b> + <b>M</b> )	5NT	6♣	6♦	9