

## Ask4Hearts Convention

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Release 1.1

### Ask4Hearts Introduction and Objectives

The convention allows responder to a minor suit opening to “Ask for hearts” and to “Ask if 4 Hearts” by bidding two of the other minor: 1♣-2♦, 1♦-2♣.

Responder’s bid shows a game force and is artificial, asking opener to show 4♥s. The bid does not promise ♥s, and can be made on a balanced hand, with or without a four card major, or can have length in a minor. The bid denies a five card or longer major. After a 1♦ opening, game forcing hands with long ♣s continue to bid 2♣, even though it is Ask4Hearts.

Objectives of Ask4Hearts:

- Allow balanced hands the capability to explore for the best spot without treating the hands as suit oriented hand or disclosing unnecessary information.
- Establish a game force immediately, so that the opponents will be reluctant to interfere, and if they do, the partnership has available penalty doubles and forcing passes (i.e. the player who first has to act can pass, knowing partner will take some action).
- Provide a forcing bid when responder has a game force in either minor.

After the Ask4Hearts bid, opener will always bid 2NT if 18-19 balanced, and otherwise with 4+♥s will always make the cheapest bid not including 2♥ (1♣-2♦—2♣, 1♦-2♣—2♦).

Here is the structure of opener’s rebids after 1♣-2♦ and 1♦-2♣:

#### Ask4Hearts Opener’s Rebid in reply to 1♣-2♦ and 1♦-2♣

Response	Style	Description
1♦-2♣-2♦, 1♣-2♦-2♣	4+♥s, any strength	1♦-2♣—2♦ and 1♣-2♦—2♣ shows 4 or longer ♥s, any strength but not 18-19 balanced. Can have 4♠s.
2♥	not 4♥s, ♠s or minimum	Denies 4 or longer ♥s, minimum or ♠s: less than 14, or 14 balanced, or 4+♠s any strength except not 18-19 balanced.
1♦-2♣-2♣	♦s, 14+	6+♦s, no second suit, 14+
2NT	Big Bal	18-19 balanced, may or may not have 4♥s or 4♠s
1♣-2♦-3♣	♣s, 14+	1♣-2♦—3♣ shows 6+♣s, 14+
1♦-2♣-3♣	5-5 minors	1♦-2♣—3♣ shows 5-5 in the minors, 14+
3♦	Other minor, 14+	Exactly 5 in opener’s minor, exactly 4 in the other minor, 14+
3♥/3♠	Shortness, 6-4+ minors, 14+	3♥ or 3♠ shows a singleton/void in the major, 6 or longer in opener’s minor, 4 or longer in the other minor, 14+
3NT	6-4 minors, 14+	3NT shows 6 or longer in opener’s minor, 4 or longer in the other minor, 14-16, singleton A or K in a major

After opener’s 2♥ rebid (1♣-2♦—2♥ or 1♦-2♣—2♥) denying 4+♥s and showing minimum or ♠s, opener with 4♠s can bid naturally with 2♠ or 2NT. 2NT does not promise ♠s, but requires opener to show them, if held, by bidding 3♥, artificial (opener has already denied 4♥s, so 3♥ is used to transfer to show 4♠s). This allows a 3♠ rebid by opener to show 5♠s.

Aside from the 3♥ rebid to show 4♠s, the bidding continues naturally, with two other exceptions:

- 1) 1♦-2♣—2♦-2♥ shows 4+♠s, asks for further description. This keeps the bidding low with ♣s.

2) If either player has denied four cards in a major (by skipping over the bid that would show it), a major suit bid by either player is value showing. This allows stoppers to be shown for 3NT.

### Ask4Hearts - Examples

a)			
♠ AT83	♠ K6	1♣-2♦—	2♦ was Ask4Hearts, used to get to
♥ 653	♥ Q872	2♥-3NT	3NT by responder to protect ♠Kx, 2♥
♦ AT	♦ KQ876		denied 4♥s and showed minimum or
♣ AJ42	♣ KT		4♠s. 3NT to play unless opener big.
b)			
♠ AQJ	♠ KT52	1♣-2♦—	2♦ used to get to 3NT by responder to
♥ T72	♥ Q863	2♥-2NT	protect ♦ AQ. 2♥ as last hand. 2NT
♦ 854	♦ AQ	3NT	was natural and opener is expected to
♣ AQ63	♣ J98		bid 3♥ (showing 4♠s) if holding 4♠s.
c)			
♠ QJ93	♠ AKT	1♦-2♣—	2♣ was Ask4Hearts, only bid
♥ A642	♥ J8	2♦-2♥—	available if long ♣s and a game force.
♦ AJ4	♦ Q7	2♠-3♣—	2♦ showed 4+♥s. 2♥ showed 4+♠s.
♣ J4	♣ KQT982	3NT	Rest natural.
d)			
♠ AK82	♠ JT65	1♣-2♦—	2♦ was Ask4Hearts, 2♠ showed 4+♥s.
♥ AQ97	♥ K632	2♠-3♥—	Rest natural, opener not strong enough
♦ 32	♦ KJ76	4♥	to cuebid over 3♥.
♣ QT4	♣ A		
e)			
♠ AJ82	♠ QT65	1♣-2♦—	2♦ was Ask4Hearts, 2♠ showed 4+♥s.
♥ AQ97	♥ KJ63	2♠-4♣—	4♣ (a jump) was singleton/void in ♣s
♦ 32	♦ AK76	4♥	with ♥ support. 4♥ showed no slam
♣ QT4	♣ 2		interest.
f)			
♠ T	♠ KQ6	1♦-2♣—	2♣ was Ask4Hearts, this time
♥ AKQ9	♥ 63	2♦-2♥—	balanced. 2♦ showed 4+♥s. 2♥
♦ AQT32	♦ KJ76	3♣-3♦—	showed 4+♠s. Rest natural.
♣ AJT	♣ K963	3♥-3NT	
g)			
♠ AK82	♠ JT5	1♣-2♦—	2♦ was Ask4Hearts, 2♠ showed 4+♥s.
♥ AQ97	♥ K6	2♠-3♣—	Rest natural.
♦ 32	♦ KJ7	3♠-3NT	
♣ QT7	♣ AK542		
h)			
♠ A982	♠ T6	1♦-2♣—	2♣ was Ask4Hearts, this time
♥ A97	♥ KJ3	2♥-3♦—	balanced. 2♥ was minimum or ♠s.
♦ QT32	♦ KJ76	3NT	Rest natural, opener not showing 4♠s
♣ QJ	♣ A875		(3♦ denied 4♠s since did not bid 2♠).
i)			
♠ T9	♠ 32	1♦-2♣—	2♣ was Ask4Hearts, this time with ♣s
♥ KQ94	♥ AT63	2♦-3♥—	(harder for opponents to bid ♠s over
♦ AJ32	♦ KQ	4♥	2♣ than if 1♥ responder). 2♦ showed
♣ QJ6	♣ KT874		4♥s, and rest natural.
j)			
♠ T9	♠ AJ32	1♦-2♣—	2♣ was Ask4Hearts, this time with ♣s
♥ KQ94	♥ T	2♦-2♣—	2♦ showed 4♥s, and rest natural.
♦ AJ32	♦ KQ	2NT-3♣—	
♣ QJ6	♣ KT8743	3NT	