

ETM Good Bad Gerber Convention

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Introduction

Good Bad Gerber, abbreviated GBG, is an improved version of Gerber. Like Gerber, GBG finds out the number of aces and kings, but, unlike normal Gerber, GBG also finds out if partner has a good or bad hand for slam purposes.

When one player uses GBG, the other player determines if their hand is good or bad for slam purposes, relative to the previous bidding made. To simplify the use of judgment here, one can employ these definitions:

Bad: A minimum hand in context of the bidding made so far.

Good: A non-minimum hand in context of the bidding made so far.

GBG can be made anywhere a Gerber bid can be made in the partnership. For many, this will be any 4♣ bid over notrump.

Good Bad Gerber Response Structure

Response	Style	Description
4♦	Any Good hand	Any good hand. 4♥ now asks for aces: 4♠: 0 aces 4NT: 1 ace 5♣: 2 aces 5♦: 3 aces 5♥: 4 aces
4♥	Bad-0	Bad hand and zero aces
4♠	Bad-1	Bad hand and 1 ace
4NT	Bad-2	Bad hand and 2 aces
5♣	Bad-3	Bad hand and 3 aces
5♦	Bad-4	Bad hand and 4 aces

After the GBG reply showing the number of aces, 5♣ asks for kings. If 5♣ is unavailable (when ace reply was above 4NT), the cheapest bid is used to ask for kings.

If the reply to 4♣ is 4♦ (Good), the player who used GBG does not have to ask for aces with 4♥. Instead they can bid 4♠, 4NT, 5♣, 5♦, or 5♥, which says partner pass if you do not have a very good hand, and otherwise reply with the number of aces, the cheapest bid showing 0, the next cheapest 1, etc. See examples for further details. In addition use this method over a slam invite 4NT (like 1NT-4NT), so if you are going to accept, then show the number of aces: for example 1NT-4NT(slam invite)—5♦ (accepts invite, shows one ace)-5NT(to play, not enough aces!).

ETM Good Bad Gerber - Examples

a)			
♠ A853	♠ KQ6	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG. 4NT showed two
♥ AK3	♥ QJ7	4NT	aces and a bad hand relative to
♦ K2	♦ AQ87		opening 1NT.
♣ J742	♣ KT3		
b)			
♠ A853	♠ KQ6	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♦ showed a good
♥ AK3	♥ QJ7	4♦-4♥—	hand relative to opening 1NT, 4♥
♦ K2	♦ AQ87	5♣-6NT	asked for aces, 5♣ showed two.
♣ QJ42	♣ KT3		
c)			
♠ 85	♠ AKQT632	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♠ showed one ace
♥ KQJ3	♥ 7	4♠	and a bad hand.
♦ AQ2	♦ K87		
♣ QJ42	♣ KT3		
d)			
♠ J5	♠ AKQT632	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♦ was Good, 4♥
♥ KQJ3	♥ 7	4♦-4♥—	asked for aces, 4NT showed one.
♦ AQJ	♦ K87	4NT-5♠	
♣ QJ42	♣ KT3		
e)			
♠ A853	♠ KQ6	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♦ was Good, 4NT
♥ AK3	♥ Q87	4♦-4NT	asked if very good, pass said no.
♦ K2	♦ AQ87		
♣ Q642	♣ KT3		
f)			
♠ A853	♠ KQ6	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♦ was Good, 4NT
♥ AK3	♥ Q87	4♦-4NT—	asked if very good, 5♥ said very
♦ K2	♦ AQ87	5♥-6NT	good and showed number of aces,
♣ QJ42	♣ KT3		5♥ showing 2 (5♣=0, 5♦=1 etc).
g)			
♠ J5	♠ AKQT632	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♦ was Good, 4♠
♥ AQJ3	♥ K	4♦-4♠—	was natural, non-forcing and asked
♦ AQ3	♦ T8	5♦-6NT	for a very good hand, and 5♦
♣ QJ42	♣ KT3		showed two aces and a very good
			hand.

Advanced Good Bad Gerber

The partnership can stay low even when the player replying to GBG has a good hand, by using a special treatment after the 4♦ rebid. After 4♦, showing a good hand, any non-jump rebid not including 5♣ (thus 4♥, 4♠, 4NT, 5♦) by the GBG bidder asks partner to pass if holding zero aces, and otherwise show the number of aces held in steps, the first step showing one. If it is impossible for the 4♦ bidder to have zero aces, the GBG bidder can bid 4♥ to ask the number of aces. If the GBG bidder wants to ask the number of aces without risking partner passing, the GBG bidder can bid 5♣ over 4♦, which asks partner to show the number of aces, starting with 5♦ to show zero aces.

In addition, this advanced response structure can be used:

Good Bad Gerber Advanced Response Structure

Response	Style	Description
4♦	Good hand, 0 to 2 aces	Any good hand, 0 to 2 aces. 4♥ now asks for aces: Pass: 0 aces 4♠: 1 ace 4NT: 2 aces
4♥	Bad-0 or 3	Bad hand and 0 or 3 aces
4♠	Bad-1 or 4	Bad hand and 1 or 4 aces
4NT	Bad-2	Bad hand and 2 aces
5♣	Good-3	Good hand and 3 aces
5♦	Good-4	Good hand and 4 aces

Whenever the partner of the GBG bidder shows the number of aces, the cheapest bid that is 5♣ or higher asks the number of kings.

Note that for the 0 or 3 bad 4♥, and 1 or 4 bad 4♠ responses, the GBB bidder looking at their own hand and knowing partner has a bad hand in context, can determine which partner has.

For the advanced treatment, using 4NT (e.g. 1NT-4NT) instead of 4♣ GBG asks if partner has a very minimum hand, not just bad but very bad – if very minimum partner passes and otherwise shows aces – to just ask if good or bad, GBG would be bid to find out.

ETM Good Bad Gerber – Advanced GBG Examples

h)

♠ A853	♠ KQ6	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♦ showed a good hand relative to opening 1NT, 0 to 2 aces, 4♥ asked for aces, 4NT showed two.
♥ AK3	♥ QJ7	4♦-4♥—	
♦ K2	♦ AQ87	4NT-6NT	
♣ QJ42	♣ KT3		

i)

♠ J5	♠ AKQT632	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♦ was Good, 0 to 2 aces, 4♥ asked for aces (no risk of opener passing since responder has 3 kings), 4♠ showed one.
♥ KQJ3	♥ 7	4♦-4♥—	
♦ AQJ	♦ K8	4♠	
♣ QJ42	♣ KT3		

j)

♠ KQJ3	♠ 2	1NT-4♣—	4♣ was GBG, 4♦ was Good, 0 to 2 aces, 4♥ asked for aces, opener passes with zero.
♥ 84	♥ AKQT632	4♦-4♥	
♦ KQJ	♦ A8		
♣ KJ42	♣ QT3		