

GERBER CRO

Standard ace asking bids like Gerber and Blackwood are not helpful when you have a void as they will not tell you which aces partner holds.

Gerber CRO is a system which gives specific responses to your 4C ask and can be very useful when assessing your suit quality if you hold a void.

CRO stands for Colour (red or black), Rank (majors or minors) and Odd ie either heart and club, or spade and diamond

Over 4C Ace ask, responder uses the roman key card responses as follows,

4D 1 or 4 or (0 or 3)

4H 0 or 3 or (1 or 4)

4S 2 aces of the same colour

4NT 2 aces of the same rank

5C 2 odd aces and no kings

After that sequence you can add

5H for 2 odd aces and 1 king

5S 2 odd aces and 2 kings

5NT 2 odd aces and 3 kings

If partner responds anything other than 5C, then the king asking bid is 5C and the responses are using the standard gerber system – ie 5D says 0 or 4, 5H says one King, 5S says 2 kings and 5NT is 3 kings.

Note with the king asking system the partnership will very likely be forced to the six level by the response so don't ask unless slam is likely!