

♠ A10
♥ K
♦ A109643
♣ A1074

You pick up this hand and you hear partner open the bidding 1NT. You announce 15-17.

You raise your nose up in the air and you sniff SLAM.

There are several phases to your thought process. Since we are all “experts” we are going to make a thorough analysis of the availability of a slam and possibly a grand slam.

1. You are interested to find out if your partner has at least an honor 3rd or 4 pieces in the diamond suit. You play 4 way transfers whereby 2♣ is a transfer to clubs and 2NT is a transfer to diamonds. If the NT opener has 3 pieces to an honor or 4 any pieces than partner will accept the transfer by bidding the suit. So you bid 2NT and partner accepts by bidding 3♦.

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2♣	P
3♦	P		

2. So now you bid 4NT asking for keycards. (This asks partner for all A's and the K♦.)

5♣=0-3

5♦=1-4

5♥=2 without the Q♦

5♠=2 with the Q♦

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2♣	P
3♦	P	4NT	P
5♠	p		

Partner bids 5♠ showing 2 keycards with the Q♦.

3. Since you have 3 A's, you now know that you have all of the Keycards with ♦ as the asking suit. You have now accounted for **9 high card points** of the 15 to 17 hcp's in partner's hand. You sniff the air again, and that SLAM odor is stronger.

Let's now ask partner for K's as there is a possibility of bidding a GRAND SLAM. If partner has 2 kings than the GRAND SLAM is probably there. But if partner does not have 2 kings, we are going to play in 6♦ or 6NT. With 6-8 more points in partner's hand, there is a great chance of at least 1 king and probably at least 1 or 2 Q's.

