FOUR-ACE BLACKWOOD

The Blackwood Convention is an artificial bid - used in slam bidding.

Use it to see if you are missing two aces when you are considering bidding a slam.

The version outlined on this sheet is four-ace Blackwood.

It is a bid of 4NT, asking partner to show how many aces he/she holds.

Answer with:-

0 or 4 aces	-	*5♣*
1 ace	-	*5♦*
2 aces	-	*5♥*
3 aces	-	*5♠*

If you are missing two aces then DON'T bid the slam.

4NT will have this meaning whenever:-

you have agreed a suit;
or
you jump to 4NT following a natural suit bid.

It will not have this meaning:-

following a natural bid in no trumps;
or
when no suit has been agreed and there is no jump.

You do not have to use this convention to bid a slam -
sometimes it is better just to bid it.

Only use the convention once you are fairly certain that you can make 12 or 13 tricks.
It ensures that your opponents can't take two tricks first.

It is not much help when you have a void -
there are better ways of finding out which ace partner holds.

Don't use the convention if the wrong answer might take you too high - e.g. don't use Blackwood if you need two aces to make 6♣ rather than 5♣.
(Partner will bid 5♦ with one ace and you will have to go 6♣ anyway.)

Many players follow the 4NT with 5NT asking for Kings.

This is almost always wrong -
only ask for Kings if you think there might be thirteen tricks.

Otherwise just sign off at the 5- or 6-level.