

Fourth Suit Forcing (FSF) Alertable!

When you and partner have bid three different suits, a 4th suit bid is an artificial **game forcing bid!**

- Bidding a 4th suit says absolutely nothing about the fourth suit.
 - The bidder could hold AKQ or just a singleton in the suit
- Promises enough HCPs to force game or better
- Both players must assume that the fourth suit is unstopped until either player bids NT

Why use Fourth Suit Forcing?

- You have a notrump-oriented hand with no “stopper” in the unbid suit
 - If partner has a “stopper” in the fourth suit, partner bids NT
- You don't have a notrump-oriented hand, but don't know which game to bid
 - Without **FSF**, you might be tempted to bid NT without a stopper in the fourth suit
- Responding to **FSF**
 - With a “stopper” in the fourth suit (and no void or singleton) bid 3NT, remember **FSF promised enough to force game**
 - Without a “stopper” in the fourth suit, support partner's suit (if you have a combined 7 card fit)
 - Unable to do either of the above, rebid your long suit
- When does FSF not apply?
 - The only exception 1C by opener, 1D by responder, 1H by opener, 1S by responder
 - This is natural and forcing only the round;
 - a jump to 2S would be FSF, a game force, and says nothing about spades (artificial and alertable)
 - Either you or partner are a passed hand
- If you're not strong enough to make a game forcing bid ...
 - With a weak hand, you would have ...
 - made a suit preference for either of partner's suits (i.e., pass or rebid partner's first suit at the lowest possible level ... remember any rebid of a suit may be passed by partner)
 - With a moderate strength hand ...
 - no 8-card fit in either of partner's suits, and a “stopper” in the unbid suit (and no void or singleton) bid NT (remember any NT bid can be passed)
 - With support for one of partner's suits, a jump in that suit indicates your interest in a game

Quiz **What is your bid with each of these hands?**

LHO = left-hand opponent

RHO = right-hand opponent

1:	S Kxx H AQJx D xx C Ax	Partner 1C 1S	RHO pass pass	YOU 1H ???	LHO pass pass	A: 2D (Fourth Suit Force)
2:	S Jxxx H AKQx D xx C Jx	Partner 1D 1S	RHO pass pass	YOU 1H ???	LHO pass pass	A: 3S shows a limit raise and 4 spades
3:	S AQJ10 H Kx D Axx C xxxx	Partner 1H 2D	RHO pass pass	YOU 1S ???	LHO pass pass	A: 3C (Fourth Suit Force)
4:	S Qx H KQ109 D AKJxx C Kx	Partner 1C 1S	RHO pass pass	YOU 1H ???	LHO pass pass	A: 2D; FSF forces to game and asking more about partner's hand; can bid 3NT, but there may be slam potential!
5:	S KQJx H Ax D AKJ10 C xxx	Partner 1D 2H	RHO pass pass	YOU 1S ???	LHO pass pass	A: 3C (FSF)
6:	S Jxxx H Jx D QJxxxx C Jx	Partner 1C 1H	RHO pass pass	YOU 1D ???	LHO pass pass	A: 1S (<u>NOT</u> Fourth Suit Force)
7:	S Kx H AQxxx D Kx C xxx	Partner 1C 1S	RHO 1D pass	YOU 1H ???	LHO pass pass	A: 2H
8:	S Kx H AQxxx D 109xx C KQx	Partner 1S 3C	RHO pass pass	YOU 2H ???	LHO pass pass	A: 3D (FSF)