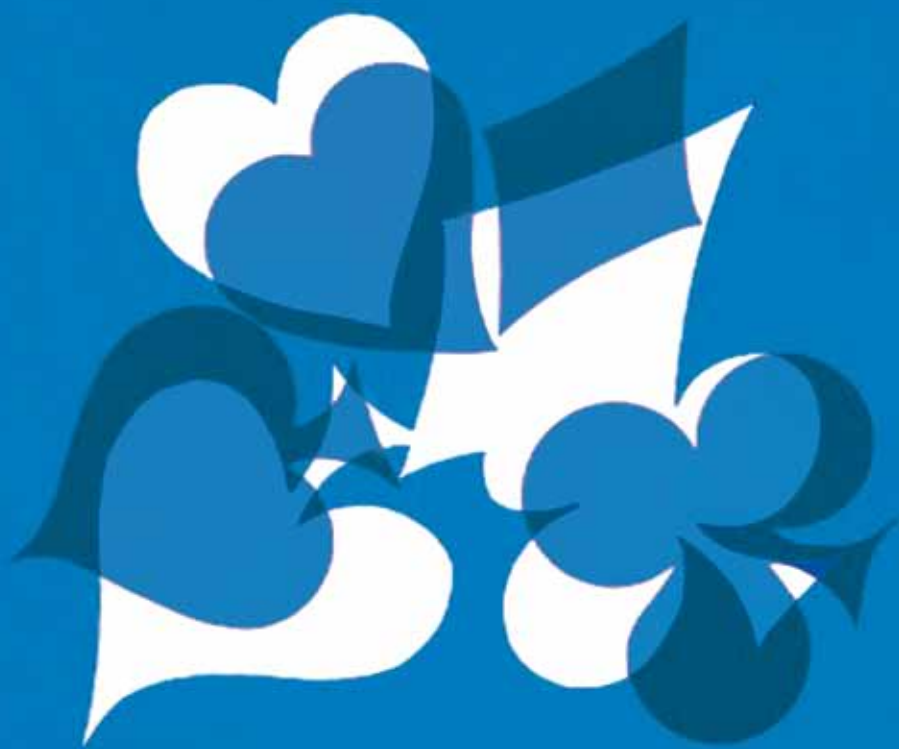


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

FOURTH SUIT FORCING

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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1NT Forcing

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Fourth Suit Forcing

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These booklets may be purchased as a single volume in digital or paper format under the title *Conventions Useful with 2/1*, one of eight books in Patty Tucker's Winning Bridge Conventions Series.

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Fourth Suit Forcing

Fourth Suit Forcing

Fourth Suit Forcing (FSF) occurs after three suits have been bid and no major suit has been bid and raised. A bid of the fourth suit (the unbid suit), at the lowest level, is artificial and game forcing. Fourth Suit Forcing typically occurs after responder's first bid has been at the one level. (FSF can occur later in an auction by either responder or opener which will be discussed later.)

After responder bids FSF, opener is under obligation to show the following features of their hand (in order of priority):

- Raise partner's first bid suit with three card support;
- Bid notrump with a stopper in the fourth suit;
- Rebid their original minor suit to show a good five card suit; or
- Make the most descriptive bid available.

Responder (in this example the "fourth suit" bidder) may have several different types of hands:

- A hand that is interested in finding three card support for their first bid suit;
- A hand that is too strong to simply bid game, a 'slammish hand';

- A hand that is interested in a notrump game but does not have a stopper in the unbid suit.

As we have discussed, the stronger your hand the slower you bid. Therefore, **if a Fourth Suit Forcing bid was available and was not bid**, jumps to the three level **in any suit** are invitational. With game forcing values and a question of either how high or where your partnership should play, a player would always bid FSF.

Do not make the mistake of using FSF when you know exactly how high and where you want to play. FSF is a tool to decide whether you should play in a suit or in NT and/or to decide whether slam is possible. If you know you only have game and you know where you want to play. . .just bid it!

After opener's response to the FSF bid, responder can know bid as slowly or as quickly as needed with no worry that the auction will end before the correct game is reached.

When a game forcing auction has been established and a fit has been established (or is established by your current bid) the slower you bid. . .the better your hand.

Hand 1		Hand 2	
<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1♦	1♥	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♣	1♠	2♣
2♥	3♥	2♥	4♥

In both hands, 2♣ is FSF, committing N/S to game and asking opener to further describe their hand. North's bid shows three-card heart support.

Hand 1 – 3♥ by South confirms hearts and shows extra values.

Hand 2 – 4♥ by South confirms hearts with a minimum game forcing hand.

After a fit has been established, new suits would be cuebids of first round controls in the suit bid.

Hand 3

<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♠	3♠
4♥	

2♦ is Fourth Suit Forcing, committing N/S to game and asking opener to further describe their hand.

2♠ shows three-card spade support.

3♠ shows extra-values.

4♥ is a cuebid and shows the ♥A, denying the ♦A and the ♣A.

If a fit has not been established (by raising a major), any bid below the level of game is an attempt to find either the right strain (suit or NT) or the right level (game or slam).

Hand 4		Hand 5	
<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1♥	1♠	1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦	2♣	2♦
2♠	3♠	2♠	3♥
		3♠	

Hand 4

2♦ is artificial and game forcing.

2♠ shows three card spade support.

3♠ confirms that spades are trumps and that South has extra values.

Hand 5

2♦ is artificial and game forcing.

2♠ shows three card spade support.

3♥ confirms a heart fit, denies a spade fit and shows extra values. Without extra values South would have not bid FSF but would simply have bid game in hearts

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Fourth Suit Forcing

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the Fourth Suit Forcing convention.



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