

1 - 3

The 3 response promises a solid seven-card or longer suit (AKQxxxx or better) and denies an outside ace or king (similar to a gambling 3NT). This doesn't come up often but when it does, you are virtually guaranteed to get a top or a game/slam swing.

3NT	Signoff	
4	Asks for shortness (4NT = clubs)	
4	Asks for suit quality and length by steps:	
	4	seven card suit
	4	seven card suit plus jack
	4NT	eight card suit
	5	nine card suit... and so forth
4 4 5 5	(if not responder's suit) shows a good suit and is not forcing	
4 4 5 5	(if responder's suit) signoff	

Examples

♠ A Q 10 8 6 5 ♠ 7 4
 ♥ A 10 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K J 7 3 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ — ♣ A K Q 8 7 6 4 2



West	East
1♣	3♠
4♦ ¹	4NT ²
7♣	Pass

1. Suit quality?
2. Eight card suit

Opener knows that responder has no worse than AKQxxxx. If the jack is missing, the grand depends on a 3-2 trump split or a missing honor such as a singleton jack. Creating a 13th trick could easily come from the opening lead or establishing a suit. For example, on a heart lead, declarer can ruff a heart, draw trumps, and try to ruff out the queen of diamonds. Failing that, he can take the spade finesse. Perhaps not a great grand slam but certainly worth a try at IMPs.