

**ADVANCED COURSE**  
**Lesson Four: Fourth Suit Forcing**

The second ‘Conventional’ (artificial) bid in this course is Fourth Suit Forcing (FSF). It is a highly useful convention as you will soon see.... The crux:

“A bid of the 4<sup>th</sup> suit by the opening side is Artificial and asks partner for more information about their hand.” To bid the 4<sup>th</sup> suit one must have 12+ points as:

1. A bid of the 4<sup>th</sup> suit is forcing to game
2. Partner can then, primarily, describe the shape of their hand and secondly, show a stopper for No Trumps.

**How does one respond to partner’s bid of the 4<sup>th</sup> suit?**

In order of priority (see examples below):

- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Shape Showing | } | 1. Bid partner’s first suit to show 3 card support                                  |
|               | } | 2. Repeat your second suit to show a minimum of 5 – 5                               |
|               | } | 3. Repeat your first suit to show 6+ cards  |
|               |   | 4. Bid No Trumps to show a ‘Stopper’ in the 4 <sup>th</sup> suit (very useful)      |
|               |   | 5. Support partner’s 1 <sup>st</sup> suit with a <i>good</i> doubleton, i.e. Ax, Kx |
|               |   | 6. Last chance saloon – with none of the above, simply repeat your first suit       |

*NB When responding to a bid of the 4<sup>th</sup> Suit, jump in your feature with 16+ points, as long as it doesn’t take you beyond 3NT!*

**Example 1:**

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1♥	1♠	♠ K32	♠ AQ974
2♣	2♦* (FSF)	♥ AK964	♥ 85
2♠**	4♠	♦ 7	♦ 983
		♣ J652	♣ AK4

\*\* Three cards in partner’s first suit.

**Example 2:**

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1♠	2♦	♠ AJ732	♠ 64
2♥	3♣* (FSF)	♥ AJ983	♥ KQ2
3♥**	4♥	♦ K3	♦ AQJ97
		♣ 4	♣ J83

\*\*Repeating the second suit guarantees min 5 - 5

### Example 3:

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1♠	2♣	♠ AJ9852	♠ K7
2♦	2♥* (FSF)	♥ 2	♥ KJ84
2♠**	4♠	♦ AQJ3	♦ K72
		♣ 76	♣ K982

\*\* 6 cards

### Example 4:

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1♠	2♣	♠ J9842	♠ K
2♦	2♥* (FSF)	♥ K8	♥ J62
2NT**	3NT	♦ AQJ3	♦ K72
		♣ A5	♣ KQJ843

\*\* A heart stopper with 12 – 15 points

### Example 5:

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1♣	1♠	♠ K2	♠ AQJ74
2♦	2♥* (FSF)	♥ 95	♥ J62
2♠**	3♠	♦ AQ74	♦ K95
4♠		♣ KJ653	♣ Q2

\*\* With little else to show, support partner's first suit with a good doubleton

### Example 6:

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1♥	1♠	♠ 92	♠ KQ1064
2♣	2♦* (FSF)	♥ AJ542	♥ 7
2♥**	3NT	♦ 73	♦ AQ42
		♣ AK86	♣ Q72

\*\* With nothing extra to show, repeat your first suit

### Example 7:

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>
1♥	1♠	♠ 42	♠ AK65
2♣	2NT*	♥ AQ532	♥ 64
Pass		♦ Q7	♦ A853
		♣ KQ73	♣ 862

\* Only 11 points so not enough for a game forcing 2♦ FSF