

Baze Extension

Removed from *EZ-Expert Bidding Tools*

[Pete Matthews Jr](#) – <https://3nt.xyz> – © January 29, 2025

When opener's rebid after Stayman discloses a 4-4 fit in a major suit, experts play reverse Baze to show an undisclosed singleton, make a balanced slam try, or ask for keycards below game. This plan is described on page 184 of the updated *EZ-Expert Bidding Tools*. The following appears in the Backstory for Stayman on page 187:

Roman keycard Gerber (RKG). Maritha Pottenger wrote the only article I could find about RKG. She recommends it to all her students, after a major suit response to Stayman: a jump to 4 NT is still quantitative, so 4 ♣ asks for keycards in responder's major suit. Eddie Kantar also recommended this, calling it RKB (Blackwood). This is part of original Baze and reasonable to play, although not quite the cat's meow.

RKG can also be played after a Jacoby transfer, but it is not needed when playing Texas. Furthermore, it conflicts with the expert auto-splinter.

The following section has been removed from the book, where it followed the one above. It's intended to apply to Jacoby transfers, not Stayman, nobody plays it, and it has to be fudged for spades. It has been removed from the book, and placed here – please ignore it!

Baze Extension. Responder's auto-splinter after a Jacoby transfer is a real good thing. In order to have both auto-splinters and a keycard ask below game, we could extend reverse Baze - unchanged when hearts are trump:

R2	O3	R3	{ 1NT – 2 ♦; 2 ♥ -? } Baze Extension for ♥
3 ♠	Auto-splinter in an unspecified suit.		
	3 NT	Where is the shortness (LMH)?	
		4 ♣	Singleton or void in clubs.
		4 ♦	Singleton or void in diamonds.
		4 ♥	Singleton or void in <i>spades</i> .
4 ♣	Semi-balanced slam try.		
	4 ♦	Last train: you decide.	
4 ♦	Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKB).		

When spades are trump, because 3 ♥ shows hearts, we have to jump through some hoops, and there is no space for a semi-balanced slam try below game. I don't know of anybody who plays this way – I had half a page, so I made it up:

R2	O3	R3	{ 1NT – 2 ♥; 2 ♠ -? } Baze Extension for ♠
4 ♣	Auto-splinter in an unspecified minor suit.		
	4 ♦	Where is the shortness (LH)?	
		4 ♥	Singleton or void in clubs.
		4 ♠	Singleton or void in diamonds.
4 ♦	Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKB).		
4 ♥	Auto-splinter, short hearts.		