Delayed Kickback for Hearts

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Delayed Kickback is a good idea that did not catch on: it's simpler to nail down 4 ♠ as the RKB ask, once hearts have become trump. This section has been removed from the book.

When hearts are trump, using 4 NT as the RKB ask can blow up when asker has fewer than two keycards. Also, there is no queen ask when the response is 5 ◇. To solve these problems, when possible, we'll use 4 ♠ as the RKB ask.

When delayed kickback applies, 4 NT takes on the meaning of the displaced 4 ♠ bid (often a control-bid in spades). Delayed kickback applies after:

Two delays: Kickback applies if hearts are trump and the partnership made at least two bids below 4 ♠, *after* the fit was confirmed, even if one partner has shown spades. An extreme example:

Opener		Responder	
1 ♠		2 ♡	
3 ♡	[sets trump]	3 ♠	[control-bid]
Any		4 ♠	[RKB ♡, even after 3 ♠]

One delay: if hearts have become trump and the partnership made one bid below 4 ♠, *after* the fit has been confirmed, so long as neither partner has shown a spade suit. Example:

Opener		Responder
2 ♣		2 ◇
3 ♡	[sets trump, demands control-bidding]	Any
4 ♠	[RKB ♡]	

Another example:

Opener		Responder	
1 NT		2 ◇	[hearts]
2 ♡		4 ♠	[no delay, *not RKB*, so EKB hearts, ♠ void]

To drive to RKB, we use a Texas transfer, not Jacoby.

No delay: after hearts become trump at the four level:

Preemptive raise:	1 ♡ – 4 ♡; 4 ♠ [RKB]
Raise in traffic:	1 ♡ – (3 ♠) – 4 ♡ – (P); 4 ♠ [RKB]
Bid to make:	(2 ♠) – 4 ♡ – (Pass) – 4 ♠ [RKB]
Texas transfer:	2 NT – 4 ◊ [hearts]; 4 ♠ [RKB]
Our preempt:	4 ♡ – 4 ♠ [RKB] -OR-
	4♣ [NAMYATS, good 4 ♡] – 4 ♠ [RKB]

A 2 NT response to our 2 ♡ opening bid sets hearts as trump. After that, it is no longer possible to play in 4 ♠, so we bid a suit instead of 2 NT, if we need to keep that possibility open. (If they overcall our 2 ♡, we can set hearts trump with a cue-bid.)

In all other cases, when hearts are trump: 4 NT is the RKB ask for hearts; and 4 ♠ has some other meaning, be that an offer to play, picture bid, control-bid, splinter, or EKB.

Backstory

Once hearts become trump, nailing down 4 ♠ removes capabilities, so I came up with delayed kickback. For example, a picture bid of 4 ♠ is the best way to bid this hand:

Opener	*Responder*
♠ Q x x x x x	♠ A K x x
♡ A J x	♡ K Q x x x
◊ A x	◊ x x
♣ A x	♣ x x
1 ♠	2 ♡
3 ♡ [forcing]	4 ♠ [four top ♡ & ♠ honors, no control in minors]
7 NT [6♠ + 5♡ + 2 aces = 13]	

If 4 ♠ is kickback, then 4 NT is a picture bid; but going past game on responder's hand sure seems silly. Delayed kickback is better in this unusual situation.

Pairs may not get to a slam at all on this deal, if they play the abomination called *fast arrival,* where bidding game immediately is required for any minimum hand, once a fit is confirmed in a game-forcing auction.