

Printable Version: Inverted Minors (ex: Bridge Guys, *edited for space and content*)

The Inverted Minor Suit Raises (IMR), better known as *Inverted Minors*, is defined as a treatment and was devised for the Kaplan-Sheinwold system (12-14 HCP 1NT opening bids). Hardy describes IMR for 2/1 Game Force and Strong (15-17 HCP) 1NT opening bids. The concept behind Inverted Minors reverses the single and double Minor suit raises from 5- Standard American.

1. A single raise of the Minor suit of the opener is strong and forcing, and shows at least 10+ HCP, NO 4+ Card Major. and a 5-card plus Minor suit support (Can be 4 cards, especially in Ds). (*Note: in the original version an Inverted Minor single raise is treated as unlimited.*)
2. A double raise is weak and obstructive, and shows 8 high card points or fewer in strength and a 5-card plus Minor suit support. Avoid preempting when holding 2 Aces – you have too much defense!

Note: The responder does not hold a 4-card higher-ranking suit. Bid that suit instead of an IMR.

Note: A passed hand does not use Inverted Minor raises.

Note: National and international players have made changes to the forcing raise, the invitational raise, and the preemptive raise. They treat a *single raise* as *game-forcing* instead of only *one-round forcing*. Other variations make the *double Minor suit raise* a limit raise, while other variations consider the *double Minor suit raise* as unlimited.

Note: The original version stated only that the *single Minor suit raise* must contain at least 10 high card points as minimum values and no upper limit was established.

Inverted Minor Suit Raise implies 5-card support for CLUBS and 4-card support for Diamonds, in case the opener was forced to open a 3-card Minor suit. Even then 4-card support can be sufficient as 3N is the most likely game target.

The following examples show how the Inverted Minor raises are used, and illustrate how the structure of the responder's holding should be when making a single raise.

Opener's Bid	Responder's Hand	Resp Bid	Comment
1♦	♠96 ♥KJ6 ♦K9874 ♣K83	2♦	10 + HCP. A 1-round force. No 4-card higher-ranking suit
1♦	♠542 ♥A95 ♦Q9874 ♣QJ	3♦	9 – HCP (QJ tight is worth 2 HCP) Can't force 1 round.
1♦	♠A75 ♥KQ3 ♦AJ32 ♣KJ53	2♦	17 HCP & 4 ♦s. Stay low. Let partner describe his hand.
1♦	♠A7 ♥KQ3 ♦J532 ♣AKJ53	2♣	17 HCP. GF first then show ♦ fit at low level.

For the Auction 1♦-P-2♦-P

Opener	Responder	Meaning
2♥/♠		1-round force and showing additional strength plus a 3/4-card Heart suit. Generally considered game forcing.
2N		non-forcing and promises a minimum and balanced to semi-balanced. Usually holds 3 or 4-card Diamond suit.
	3♣	generally promises a stopper in the ♣ suit, promises the equivalent of a full opening bid, and is game forcing.
	3♦	a holding unsuitable for No Trump with minimum to moderate values, and no stopper in any higher-ranking suit.
	3♥/♠	a stopper in the Heart suit, promises the equivalent of a full opening bid, and is game forcing.
3♣		A new suit by the opener after the initial sequence strongly promises a stopper and is one-round forcing. This rebid promises more than minimum values and unbalanced distribution.
	3♦	No interest in continuing the auction, no stopper(s) in the higher-ranking suits. Non-forcing.
	3♥/♠	A rebid in another suit by the responder promises full opening values and a stopper in the suit bid. It denies a lower ranking stopper.
3♦		A raise by the opener promises minimum values and a 4+ - card suit. Non-forcing. Considered purely obstructive in nature.

For the Auction 1♦-P-2♦-P

Opener	Responder	Meaning
3♥		A Jump rebid in a new suit by the opener strongly promises a stopper and is forcing. This rebid promises more than minimum values and unbalanced distribution. Some play this as a Splinter bid showing game values and 0/1 card in the suit bid.
	3♠	This rebid by the responder generally promises a stopper in the Spade suit, promises the equivalent of a full opening bid, and is game forcing.
	3N	Since the rebid by the opener of 3♥ is forcing, a response of 3 NT can indicate (partnership agreement) no stopper in the ♠ suit or a semi-stopper in the ♠ suit. If the opener has a stopper in the ♠ suit, then the opener will pass. If the opener has no stopper ♠s, then the opener might bid 4♦. If 3♥ is a splinter, 3N shows wasted values in ♥s.
	4♣	Forcing. The responder shows no stopper in the ♠ suit and a stopper in the ♣ suit, and interest in slam. With no ♠ stopper and interest in ♦ game only, responder bids 5♦.
	4♦	A rebid of 4 ♦ by the responder shows no stopper in the ♠ suit and no stopper in the ♣ suit. This response is non-forcing since the opener has shown no stopper in the ♣ suit. <i>POSSIBLE TO CONFUSE WITH MINORWOOD.</i>
3♠		(See 3♥ above). If stopper showing, denies ♥ stopper.
	3N	This rebid by the responder implies a stopper in the ♣ suit and the ♥ suit. Full opening values. If 3♠ is a splinter, 3N shows wasted ♠ values.
	4♣	Forcing. Shows stopper in ♣s, and interest in slam. With no ♣ stopper and interest in the ♦ game, responder will bid 5♦ instead.
	4♦	A rebid of 4 ♦ by the responder shows no stopper in the ♥ suit and no stopper in the ♣ suit. This response is non-forcing since the opener has shown no stopper in the ♣ suit. <i>POSSIBLE TO CONFUSE WITH MINORWOOD.</i>
3NT		Shows a balanced hand and 18-19 points (playing a 15-17 HCP 1NT opener). . For partnerships playing a 12-14 point range for 1 No Trump, then this rebid promises 15-17 HCP. Implies a 3-card ♦ suit (might be 4 cards).
4♦		A strong discitbutional hand with long ♦ and slam interest. Begin control bidding. MINORWOOD (RKB) if you play that convention.
5♦		Strong values, an unbalanced distribution, and a lack of stoppers in at least two of the unnamed suits. No interest in Slam.

Possible Rebids by the Responder

These rebids and responses can be modified to meet your partnership requirements. One scheme after the opener has rebid either Hearts or Spades are shown below. You can modify this agreement as you see fit. Both Minor suits are combined for convenience: 1♣/1♦ - 2♣/2♦

Opener	Responder	Meaning
2♥/♠	2N	Shows a natural Inverted Minor raise and no additional values. The responder does not promise stoppers in either or both of the unbid suits.
	3♣/♦	Shows a minimum single raise, which is unsuitable for play in No Trump
	3♥/♠	Shows a good 3-card Heart or ♠ suit or a stopper in the bid suit
	3N	A jump response promises stoppers (one or more) in the unbid suits.
3♣/♦	3♦/4♣	Show additional strength in the other Minor suit. This information could assist the partnership to reach a NT contract or slam.

The Double Raise is generally considered preemptive. Following are examples of this double raise

Opener's Bid	Responder's Hand	Resp Bid	Comment
1♦	♠52 ♥953 ♦Q9874 ♣K83	3♦	5 HCP. Take space away from opponents.
1♦	♠5 ♥95 ♦Q9876432 ♣83	3♦	2 HCP (5D is a good bid when NV vs V opponents).
1♦	♠Qx ♥Qxx ♦Qxxx ♣Qxxx	3♦	8 HCP and 4 Ds. A maximum for the raise to 3.

When Opponents Intervene:

The overcall:

- 1♣-1♥-?
- 2♣ = Simple raise 6-9 HCP and 4+ Cards.
 - Double = 4 ♠s unlimited or 5+ ♠s 6-9 HCP.
 - 2H = Cue bid is a Limit Raise or BETTER in ♣s
 - 3♣ = Preemptive

The Takeout Double:

- 1♦ – Double - ?
- 2♦ = Simple Raise 6-9 HCP and 4+ Cards.
 - Redouble 10+ HCP, implies poor fir for ♦s
 - 2N = Jordan (Limit Raise or Better)
 - 3♦ = Preemptive

NOTE: 3N is a better scoring game and should be played by the hand with the better position on opening lead. Some experts **Flip-Flop** the meaning of 2N and 3 of partner's minor after a takeout double. The 2N bid is a preemptive raise and partner corrects. 3♦ is an invitational raise or better, leaving the 3 level to show stoppers and position the 3NT contract in the right hand.

Note: Some partnerships use the Inverted Minors conventional method after a 1-level overcall by an opponent or a Takeout Double. Ask!

Note: Partnership agreement: Passed hand use of the Inverted Minor Raise.

Note: In general, after a single Minor raise, the return to 3 of the agreed Minor or 2 No Trump, then this is not forcing (except if either partner has bid 3 No Trump prior to a return to 4 of the Minor suit) and indicates minimum values for his/her previous bidding. Therefore, any other (re)bid that does not equal game is forcing for one round.

Be sure to discuss whether the last bids are forcing, nonforcing, or Minorwood in the following sequences:

1♦ – P – 2♦ – P 2♥ – P – 3♠ – P 4♦	Likely Yes. Responder showed great strength/distribution and you should be getting to game. No need to stop at the 4-level.
1♣ – P – 2♣ – P 2♦ – P – 2♥ – P 2♠ – P – 3N – P 4♣	This looks like a slam try as partner took you past 3N with all suits stopped. If you play Minorwood this is it!
1♦ – P – 2♦ – P 3♥ – P – 3♠ – P 3N – P – 4♦	
1♣ – P – 2♣ – P 4♣ 1♦ – P – 3♦ – P 4♦	Generally up to your partnership. Many play this as Minorwood, yes, even after the preemptive raise. You could have 8 HCP by the way.

References:

- http://www.bridgeguys.com/Conventions/inverted_minors.html
- http://omahabridge.org/Documents/mh_Inverted_Raises.pdf
- <http://www.acblunit174.org/clearlak/DavidsCorner/InvertedMinorRaises.html>
- http://www.bridgehands.com/!/Inverted_Minors.htm