

## Inverted Minor Suit Raises

- Brian & Gloria teach the following structure in the Monday night class:
- When partner bids 1 of any suit (  $\heartsuit$   $\spadesuit$   $\clubsuit$   $\diamondsuit$  ):
  - 2 of the suit shows 6-9 HCP, at least 3 card support (a single raise)
  - 3 of the suit shows 10-12 HCP, at least 4 card support (a limit raise)
  - After a limit raise, opener is supposed to pass with a minimum and raise to game with a maximum
  - They also tell you to “Shun the Minors!” If you have a fit in a minor and enough points for game, look for 3NT.

You get dealt the following hand at matchpoints:

- AJ94
- 83
- AQ82
- K93

You open 1 $\heartsuit$ , and partner responds 3 $\heartsuit$  -- a limit raise in diamonds. Should you accept the invitation? What should you bid?

- You should accept the invitation. You have 14 HCP and are just one point away from opening 1NT. You should bid 3NT.

Partner shows up with a nice hand for you (for once!).

- Q8
- AK7
- K7643
- 542

If they lead a club, you now have nine tricks (5 $\heartsuit$ , 2 $\spadesuit$ , 1 $\clubsuit$  and the club king will set up). If they lead a heart, you can win on the board and play the spade queen. If the finesse wins, you have 9 tricks. If it loses, your club king is protected from attack and you still have 9 tricks. 3NT is ice cold.

Later in the session, you get dealt the same hand (!).

- AJ94
- 83
- AQ82
- K93

Partner again bids 3 $\heartsuit$ , and once again with 14 HCP you accept and bid 3NT. Unfortunately, this time partner has:

- 872
- J9
- KJT94
- AQJ

The opponents lead a heart and take the first five heart tricks. Despite 26 HCP, no game is good. Oh well – bad luck!

However, you look at the traveler, and there are pairs that are playing game on the first hand and a diamond partial on the second hand. How did they stay out of 3NT?

- The answer is that they were probably playing *inverted minor suit raises*.

The 5 most common contracts are as follows (data from Richard Pavlicek's website from team championships scored in IMPS –59,000 results tabulated)

1. 3NT (19%)
2. 4 $\heartsuit$  (15%)
3. 4 $\spadesuit$  (13%)
4. 1NT (6%)
5. 2 $\heartsuit$  (6%)
9. 3 $\heartsuit$  (3%)

The percentage of time you play in each strain from the same data set (all levels)

1. NT -- 28.4%
2.  $\heartsuit$  -- 28.1%
3.  $\spadesuit$  -- 24.2%
4.  $\clubsuit$  -- 10.0%
5.  $\diamonds$  -- 9.9%

- Hands with a major suit fit drive toward 4 of a major
- Hands with a minor suit fit (or no fit above 7 cards) drive to 3NT

- Inverted Minor Suit Raises

- After 1 ♠/1 ♣

- 2♠/2♣ is a **limit raise or better** (10+) and the bid is forcing
- 3♠/3♣ is **preemptive** – around 4-7 HCP, 5+ cards in the minor
- Hands in between (8-9) can respond 1NT to start; perhaps compete in the minor later
- All these bids above **deny** a four card major for responder

*Sample hands below presume partner opened 1 ♠*

- K72
- 93
- KQ962
- AJ3

After 1♠ by partner, playing inverted you bid 2♠ which shows 10+ HCP, is forcing for at least one round, and denies a 4 card major. You plan to force to game with an opening hand yourself.

- 
- 872
  - 93
  - KQ962
  - AJ3

Still worth 2♠, a limit raise in diamonds. This hand however will not force to game unless partner shows extras.

- 
- QT2
  - 93
  - K9762
  - QJ7

This hand is in between the 2♠ and 3♠ call. Start with 1NT, planning to compete to 3♠ over 2 of a major by the opponents.

- 
- 872
  - 93
  - KQ962
  - T73

This hand is about right for a preemptive raise to 3♣.

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1. **Do we have to alert these bids?**

- a. Yes. If there is no interference by the opponents, the raise to 2 of a minor (limit raise, forcing) and the raise to 3 of a minor (preemptive) must be alerted

2. **What happens if the opponents overcall 1♥♣?**

- a. Inverted minors are now **off**. The overcall has given you three different raises instead of two, so you should use them.

1♣-(1♥)-??

--10+ HCP, 4+ clubs, < 4 hearts – bid 2♣ -- a limit raise or better (the negative double showing hearts takes priority)

-- 6-9 HCP, 4+ clubs – bid 2♣\* -- a single raise

\* This one reverts to the original standard meaning

-- 3-6 HCP, 5+ clubs – bid 3♣\*\* (preemptive)

\*\* This one retains the new meaning

None of these bids need to be alerted after interference – including the preemptive raise.

3. **What happens if the opponents double?**

- a. 1♣-(x)-??

--2NT shows a limit raise (Jordan), no four card major, 10+ HCP\*\*\*

\*\*\*This call is alertable in the ACBL.

--2♣ is a single raise (6-9, 4+ clubs, no four card major)

--3♣ is preemptive (3-6 HCP, 5+ clubs)

• **The #1 advantage of inverted minors is the space it gives you to explore whether 3NT is good or not**

• **Because opener does not have a five card major, and responder does not have a four card major, you can now bid stoppers instead of needing real length in suits.**

- No golden fit in a major is possible unless opener's hand is a freak (6-5 at least).
- A good principle is that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bids show stoppers, and the 4<sup>th</sup> bid asks for a stopper.
  - If at any time either player can bid 3NT, he or she should

Back to our original hands.....

<input type="checkbox"/> AJ94	<input type="checkbox"/> Q8
<input type="checkbox"/> 83	<input type="checkbox"/> AK7
<input type="checkbox"/> AQ82	<input type="checkbox"/> K7643
<input type="checkbox"/> K93	<input type="checkbox"/> 542

1  - 2 \*

2 \*\* - 3 \*\*\*

3NT\*\*\*\*

\* Limit raise or better in diamonds

\*\* I have the spades stopped

\*\*\* I have the hearts stopped

\*\*\*\* Well, with Kxx of clubs, I better bid 3NT!

<input type="checkbox"/> AJ94	<input type="checkbox"/> 872
<input type="checkbox"/> 83	<input type="checkbox"/> J9
<input type="checkbox"/> AQ82	<input type="checkbox"/> KJT94
<input type="checkbox"/> K93	<input type="checkbox"/> AQJ

1  - 2 \*

2 \*\* - 3 \*\*\*

3 \*\*\*\* - pass\*\*\*\*\*

\* limit raise or better in diamonds

\*\* I have the spades stopped

\*\*\* I have the clubs stopped

\*\*\*\* Well, I don't have the hearts stopped – maybe you do?

\*\*\*\*\* Nope!