

# Major Suit Raises- Bergen Raises

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# Why Major Suit Raises

- First (or second) priority in our beloved form of Bridge!
  - Find an 8+ card major suit fit
  - No Trump
  - Minor suit fit
- How does your partnership proceed in these bidding situations:
  - 1S-2S and you as opener have 16-17 HCP?
  - 1D-1S//2S, and you as responder have 9-10 HCP?
  - Help suit, short suit, long suit, Kokish game tries, etc.
- As Responder, how do you show a 3-card limit raise vs a 4-card limit raise when partner opens a Major suit?
  - Why is this important?
  - Isn't an 8 card fit the 'Holy Grail'?
  - Can you show the difference between a 'good' and a 'bad' 3-card raise?

# Major Suit Raises

- There are many different systems by experts today
- One of the more popular is a set of systems based on the Law of Total Tricks (LOTT) and popularized by Marty Bergen
- I will give 2 “Easy” versions, 1 more complex version and lastly my personal favorite version.

# Major Suit Raises- “Easy” Bergen

- Best for casual partnerships
- For a 3 card Raise
  - 5-9 Support Points: simple raise
  - 10-12 Support Points: bid 1NT (forcing), then rebid 3 of major after partners response
- For a 4+ card Raise

Description	Bergen	Reverse Bergen
7-10 Support/Dummy points, 4+ card support	3♣	3♦
10-12 Support/Dummy points, 4+ card support	3♦	3♣
0-7 Support/Dummy points, 4 card support	3 of Major	
0-9 Support points, 5+ card support	4 of Major	
13+ Support points, 4+ card support	2NT	
13-15 Support points, 4333 shape with 3 trumps	3NT	

# Major Suit Raises- Bergen #3 (Combined Bergen)

- For a 3 card Raise
  - 5-9 Support Points: simple raise
  - 10-12 Support Points: bid 1NT (forcing), then rebid 3 of major after partners response, Jxx or less
- For a 3+ card Raise with more values

Description	Bergen #3
7-12 Support/Dummy points, 4+ card support	3♣
10-12 Support/Dummy points, 3 card support (Qxx, Kxx , Axx or better)	3♦
0-7 Support/Dummy points, 4 card support	3 of Major
0-9 Support points, 5+ card support	4 of Major
13+ Support points, 4+ card support	2NT
13-15 Support points, 4333 shape with 3 trumps	3NT

# Major Suit Raises- My Personal Favorite

- For a 3 card Raise
  - 7-9 Support Points: with Qxx or better, single raise
  - 5-9 Support Points: with less than above, bid 1NT and then give a 'false preference'
  - 10-12 Support Points: bid 1NT (forcing), then rebid 3 of major after partners response, Jxx or less
- All other raises

Description	Bergen #4
7-12 Support points, 4+ card support (3♦ by Opener asks for range)	3♣
10-12 Support points, 3 card support (Qxx, Kxx, Axx or better)	3♦
0-7 Support points, 4 card support	3 of Major
10-15 Support points and a singleton/void	3 of other Major
16+ Support points, 4+ card support	2NT
13-15 Support points, 4333 shape with 3 trumps	3NT
13-15 Support points + 2 key cards + feature (3 <sup>rd</sup> key card or trump Q or singleton)	4♣
13-15 Support points + 2 key cards, no shortness	4♦
0-9 Support points, 5+ card support	4 of Major

# What have we learned?

- Bids to show single raise values with good/bad trump support
- Bids to show 3-card limit raise (LR) values with good/bad trump support
- Bids to show 4-card: less than LR, LR or GF values
  - Balanced and unbalanced
- Is this all there is to Major Suit Raises?
  - No, but it is a good start 😊