

Inverted Minors

How to use them
effectively

The Inverted Minors Convention

- The purpose of the inverted minors convention is to help the partnership find the best game when they have a minor suit fit.
- Playing the standard way a single raise of a minor suit opening shows:
 - 5-10 points
 - 5+cards in the minor suit.
 - No 4-card or longer major suit,
- A jump raise shows same as above, with 10+ points.

When You Play Inverted

- The convention simply reverses the standard bidding.
- The Idea is to save bidding space when your side has strength and use up bidding space when the other side is likely to have strength.
- Remember: a direct raise of a minor suit (either single or jump) guarantees no 4-card or longer major suit.

A Jump Raise of a Minor-Suit Opening Bid

- A bad 10 or fewer points
- At least 5 cards in the minor suit.
- No 4-card or longer major suit.

Hand 1

♠ 4 2

♥ J 9 7

♦ 10 5 3

♣ K Q 9 4 3

Partner opens 1 ♣

Hand 2

♠ 4

♥ J 9

♦ A J 10 8 5 3

♣ Q 7 4 2

Partner opens 1 ♦

How Weak Can a Jump Raise Be?

- Vulnerability is a factor here.
- At favorable vulnerability, your hand might be as weak as 5 or six points and a suit like J 8 6 5 4 2.
- At unfavorable vulnerability, you'll need a stronger hand and suit.
 - Perhaps K J 8 6 4 3 and about 7 to 10 points.

A Single Raise of a Minor-Suit Opening Bid

- A good 10+ points
- 5 or more card in the minor suit,
- No 4-card or longer major suit
- No upper limit points.

A Good 10 Point Hand

Hand 3

♠ 2

♥ 9 7

♦ K 10 9 5

♣ A Q J 10 4 3

Partner opens 1 ♣. Notice, your points are concentrated in your long suits and you have solid middle cards.

There's No Upper Limit

Hand 4

♠ Q 2

♥ A 9 7

♦ K 10 9

♣ K Q 10 6 4

Hand 5

♠ A Q 2

♥ Q 9 7

♦ K J 10 9 6

♣ A K

Your single raise is forcing for at least one round of bidding. Even with hands as strong as these, you don't have to worry that partner will pass.

After a Single Raise of a Minor Opening Bid

- Any new-suit bid shows a stopper with the intention of playing no trump.
- Bid stoppers up the line.
- To skip a suit means no stopper.

After 1 ♣ ... 2 ♣

- Opener's rebids
 - 2 ♦ shows a diamond stopper.. Responder will bid his most convenient stopper.
 - 2 ♥ shows a heart stopper, denies a diamond stopper.
 - 2 ♠ shows a spade stopper denies a stopper in diamonds or hearts.
 - 2nt shows both major suits stopped, says nothing about diamonds.
 - 3 nt shows a hand with all unbid suits stopped, with a good 13 or 14 points.

After 1 ♦ ... 2 ♦

- Opener's rebids
 - 2 ♥ shows a heart stopper, says nothing about clubs.
 - 2 ♠ shows a spade stopper, denies a heart stopper and says nothing about clubs.
 - 2nt shows both major suits stopped, says nothing about clubs.
 - 3 no trump shows all unbid suits stopped, with a good 13 or 14 points

Example 1

South

♠ 4

♥ A J 5

♦ A J 4

♣ K J 9 7 6 3

North

♠ K Q J

♥ 10 9

♦ K 10 9

♣ A Q 10 6 4

South

1 ♣

2 ♦

3nt

West

pass

pass

all pass

North

2 ♣

2 ♠

East

pass

pass

Example 2

South

♠ 4 2

♥ A K

♦ 7 5 4

♣ A Q 9 7 6 3

North

♠ K Q J

♥ 10 9

♦ A J 9

♣ K 10 8 6 4

South

1 ♣

2 ♥

3 ♣

West

pass

pass

pass

North

2 ♣

2 ♠

3nt

East

pass

pass

all pass

Example 3

South

♠ A Q 7

♥ 8 7

♦ J 5 4 3

♣ A J 4 2

North

♠ K J

♥ J 10 6

♦ K Q 10 7 3

♣ Q 7 6

South

1 ♦

2 ♠

all pass

West

pass

pass

North

2 ♦

3 ♦

East

pass

pass

Example 4

South

♠ A J 7 4

♥ 8 7

♦ A J 10 4

♣ Q 4 2

North

♠ 10 5

♥ A Q 3

♦ K Q 7 5 3

♣ A J 10

South

1 ♦

2 ♠

West

pass

pass

North

2 ♦

3nt

East

pass

all pass

Example 5

South

♠ A J 7 4

♥ A 9 7

♦ A J 10 4

♣ 4 2

North

♠ 10 5

♥ 10 3

♦ K Q 7 5 3

♣ A K J 10

South

1 ♦

2 nt

West

pass

pass

North

2 ♦

3nt

East

pass

all pass

Example 6

South

♠ 5 4 2

♥ A 9 7

♦ A Q 10 6

♣ Q 4 2

North

♠ 10

♥ K Q

♦ K J 9 7 5 3

♣ A K J 10

South

1 ♦

2 ♥

3 ♦

West

pass

pass

pass

North

2 ♦

3 ♣

5 ♦

East

pass

pass

all pass

The Minorwood Convention

- Minorwood is a variation of RKC Blackwood.
- When a minor suit is the agreed trump suit, a regular RKC response can occasionally take you beyond the 5 level of your minor and still not show you enough key cards for a small slam.

How Minorwood Works

- The 4 level of the agreed minor suit initiates the convention.
- Obviously, playing minorwood, you can never sign off at the 4 level of a minor suit.
- When a minor suit has been agreed, either by direct bidding or inference, a bid of 4 of that suit initiates the convention.

Minorwood RKC 1430 Version

- Following 4 ♣.
 - 4 ♦ shows 1 or 4 key cards
 - 4 ♥ shows 0 or 3 key cards
 - 4 ♠ Shows 2 or 5 key cards, without the queen of trump,
 - 4nt Shows 2 or 5 key cards, with the queen of trump,

Minorwood RKC 1430 Version

- Following 4 ♦
 - 4 ♥ shows 1 or 4 key cards
 - 4 ♠ Shows 0 or 3 key cards
 - 4nt Shows 2 or 5 key cards, without the queen of trump
 - 5 ♣ Shows 2 or 5 key cards, with the queen of trump,,

Example 7

South

♠ A K 2

♥ 7

♦ A J 10 8 5 2

♣ A Q 2

North

♠ Q 5

♥ Q 6 3

♦ K Q 7 6 3

♣ K J 10

South

1 ♦

2 ♠

4 ♦

6 ♦

West

pass

pass

pass

North

2 ♦

3 ♣

4 ♥

East

pass

pass

pass

What if Opponents Overcall

- With an overcall the inverted minor is off.
- Use your normal way of handling an overcall.
 - Negative double
 - 3 of the minor is weak
 - The appropriate level of no trump with a stopper
 - A cue bid of the opponent's suit is a limit raise.

If the Opponents Make a Takeout Double

- After a takeout double the inverted minor convention is on.
 - 2 of the minor is strong.
 - You can also redouble to show 10+ points
 - 3 of the minor is weak
 - A new suit shows 6-10 points and 4+ cards in the suit. .