

# Jump-Shifts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Some Thoughts on the  
Modern Ways to Play  
Them

# Jump-Shifts by Opener

- Always strong.
- Show an unbalanced hand.
- Not particularly suited for no trump.
- Although no trump might still be the final contract.

# Here's An Example

North	East	South	West
1♠	pass	1nt	pass
3♥			

North's hand

♠ A K J 4 2

♥ A Q J 2

♦ 5 (20 points)

♣ K Q 3

- In this auction, this is what south would expect to see in partner's hand.
- 19-21 points, unbalanced.
- Not suited for no trump.

# South Might Have a Problem

North	East	South	West
1♠	pass	1nt	pass
3♥			

South's hand

♠ Q 3

♥ K 5 4

♦ 9 7 3 2 (6 points)

♣ J 7 6 2

- Pass is not an option.
- With this hand, probably the best option is to try 3♠.
- Partner will know you do not have 3-card support.

# Suppose South Has Something Like This?

North	East	South	West
1♣	pass	1♦	pass
2♥			

South's hand

♠ J 9 8 3

♥ 5 4

♦ A J 7 3 2 (6 points)

♣ 6 2

- Pass is still not an option.
- You can bid 2♠.
- Partner has 19-21 points and probably 5 clubs and 4 hearts.

# Suppose North Has a More Balanced Hand

North East South West  
1♣ pass 1♦ pass  
2nt

North's hand

♠ A K 7 3

♥ K J 9 4

♦ A 2 (18 points)

♣ K 6 2

- Still an awkward hand to bid.
- With a balanced hand you can bid no trump.
- A jump to two no trump shows a hand too good for 1 no trump and not quite good enough for a 2 no trump opening.
- 18 or 19 points
- Does not deny a 4-card major suit.

# Here's an Agreement You Should Have for These Kinds of Hands

North	East	South	West
1♣	pass	1♦	pass
2nt	pass	3♣	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	

South's hand

♠ 5 2

♥ K 8 7 3

♦ A J 9 4 (8 points)

♣ 8 5 3

- In this bidding sequence, 3 clubs should be check back Stayman.
- In case opener has a 4-card major suit.

# Here's an Agreement You Should Have for These Kinds of Hands

North	East	South	West
1♣	pass	1♠	pass
2nt	pass	3♣	pass
3♠	pass	4♠	

North's hand

♠ A J 5 2

♥ K 8

♦ A J 9 4 (18 points)

♣ K Q 3

- In this bidding sequence, 3 clubs should be check back Stayman.
- In case opener had a 4 card major.
- North elected to show the strength of his hand before showing the spade fit.



# Remember Partner's Jump to Game is Not a Shutout Bid.

North	East	South	West
1♣	pass	1♠	pass
4♠			

South's hand

♠ K 8 5 2

♥ 8 7 3

♦ J 9 4 (6 points)

♣ Q 5 3

- Opener's bid shows 19-21 points.
- With this hand, of course, you will pass and play the game.

# But if You Have Something Like This, You're Thinking Slam

North	East	South	West
1♣	pass	1♠	pass
4♠	pass	5♦	

South's hand

♠ K Q 7 5 2

♥ K 7 3

♦ A 9 4 (14 points)

♣ Q 3

- Opener's bid shows 19-21 points.
- Cue bid your first round control in diamonds to show slam interest.

# When Responder Jump-Shifts

- It is weak (most play it weak).
- I'll talk about some other options in a minute.
- If you play it weak, it is really weak.
- 2-4 or 5 points and a six card suit.
- You tell partner your hand is worthless unless you name your suit trump.

# The Weak Jump-Shift

North East South West  
1♦ pass 2♠ pass

South's hand

♠ K10 7 5 4 2

♥ 7 3 2

♦ 10 9 4 (3 points)

♣ 3

- A weak jump shift by responder is 2-4 or 5 points.
- A 6-card or longer suit.
- It is usually a jump to a two level in a major suit after partner opens a minor.

# Another Weak Jump-Shift

North East South West  
1♣ pass 2♥ pass

South's hand

♠ 2

♥ K J 9 7 3 2

♦ 10 9 4 (4 points)

♣ 5 3 2

- A weak jump shift by responder is 2-4 or 5 points.
- A 6-card or longer suit.
- This one is about a maximum weak jump-shift.

# Suppose You Have This Holding?

North East South West  
1♣ pass 1♥ pass

South's hand

♠ 2

♥ A J 9 7 3 2

♦ Q J 4 (8 points)

♣ 5 3 2

- Just bid 1♥.
- Then if partner shows anything but a really strong hand, you will simply rebid your hearts.
- Too strong for a weak jump-shift.

# Would You Make a Weak Jump-Shift With this Hand?

North East South West

1♣ pass

South's hand

♠ 2

♥ J 10 9 7 5 2

♦ 9 7 4 (1 point)

♣ 5 3 2

- Probably not a good idea.
- True, your hand is worthless.
- But this is too weak.
- Of course, if partner opened 1nt, you would transfer and drop.

# When Partner Opens a Major Suit

North East South West  
1♥ pass pass

South's hand

♠ 8 5

♥ 2

♦ Q 7 4 (5 points)

♣ K 10 8 5 3 2

- It is probably best not to make a weak jump-shift.
- You get to the 9 trick level.
- Best to pass and hope the opponents come in.



# Many Pairs Play Bergen Raises

North East South West  
1♥ pass 3♣

South's hand

♠ 8 5

♥ K 10 6 2

♦ A 5 4 2 (8 points)

♣ J 10 8

- 3♣ shows a hand with 7-10 points and 4-card support.
- Called a constructive raise.

# Many Pairs Play Bergen Raises

North East South West  
1♥ pass 3♦

South's hand

♠ 8 5

♥ K 10 6 2

♦ A 5 4 2 (8 points)

♣ J 10 8

- 3♦ shows a hand with 10-12 points and 4-card support.
- Called a Limit raise.
- So, of course, Bergen raises takes away the weak jump-shift, over a major-suit opening.

# Now for Something Completely Different

North East South West

1♥ pass 3♦

South's hand

♠ K 5

♥ 6 2 (11 points)

♦ A Q J 5 4 2

♣ J 10 8

- This is a convention recommended by Larry Cohen.
- Over 1♥ or 1♠, a jump shift to a minor shows a good six card suit and invitational values.

# Many Pairs Play Criss-Cross as Part of the Inverted Minors Convention

- When Partner opens a minor suit, a jump-shift to the other minor shows:
  - 5 cards in the opener's minor.
  - No 4-card major.
  - And invitational values 10 to 12 points.
- That makes a single raise in the opener's minor game forcing and a jump raise preemptive.

# Criss-Cross Example 1

North East South West

1♣ pass 2♦

South's hand

♠ K 5 3

♥ 6 2 (11 points)

♦ J 5 3

♣ A Q J 10 8

- 2♦ is a jump-shift. If you play weak jump-shifts, it would show 2-5 points with a six card diamond suit.
- If you play criss-cross, it shows this hand.

# Criss-Cross Example 2

North East South West

1♦ pass 3♣

South's hand

♠ K 5 3

♥ 6 2 (11 points)

♦ A Q J 5 3

♣ J 10 8

- 3♣ is a jump-shift. If you play weak jump-shifts, it would show 2-5 points with a six card diamond suit.
- If you play criss-cross, it shows this hand.

# Criss-Cross Example 3

North East South West

1♦ pass 2♦

South's hand

♠ K 5 3

♥ K 2 (14 points)

♦ A Q J 5 3

♣ J 10 8

- 2♦ is the inverted minor convention.
- However, with criss-cross there is no doubt.
- Responder has a game forcing hand.

# Final Thoughts

- The use of the jump-shift is changing in 21<sup>st</sup> century bidding.
- I'm not necessarily recommending any of these changes, but you should be aware of them.
- Some of them offer some interesting advantages.
- Talk them over with your partner.