

## Inverted Minor Suit Raises

(This treatment is alertable in ACBL regulations.)

An inverted minor suit raise is a possible response to partner's minor suit openings with a fairly weak hand. It is preemptive in nature.

### Motivation

Inverted minor raises were developed as an improvement to natural fit responses to a minor, as well as to limit raises of minor suits. Here are a few reasons:

- The auction 1♣-P-2♣-P-P-P never happens. If neither partner has any major suit to mention, there's no way the opponents will let them buy the contract for 2♣. Thus, 3♣ would be a better preemptive response.
- A limit raise of 1♣-3♣ may be useful as an invitation to a minor suit game, but it is more useful as an invitation to 3NT. It is therefore best to leave as much room as possible to determine if this is feasible.

### Responses

After a minor suit opening (1♣ or 1♦), responder may raise the minor suit as follows:

- With 6-10 points, 4 card support, and no 4-card major, bid the minor at the 3-level.
- With 11+ points, 4 card support, and no 4-card major, bid the minor at the 2-level. This bid is forcing unless responder is a passed hand. It is not a limit bid.
- Higher jump raises may also be used, but these are weak and indicative of very freakish distribution.
- Some pairs play the single raise as game-forcing, but I don't think this makes sense.

#### Opener's rebids after single (unlimited) raise

- 3 of the original minor shows a real suit (4+ cards) and 13-14 points. This bid is not forcing.
- 2NT shows a balanced hand suitable for notrump and 13-14 points. Opener often has just a three-card minor suit. This bid is not forcing.
- 3NT shows a balanced hand and 18-19 points. Opener may have a three-card minor suit.
- A new suit shows 15+ points, confirms a real opening suit (4+ cards), and at least 3 cards (often 4) in the new suit including a stopper. This bid is forcing.

- Some pairs define the 2NT rebid as showing a balanced 12-13 and jump to game on a balanced 14-15. This makes it difficult to show the 18-19 point hand.

### Follow-up

For the rest of the auction, the following agreements are in place:

- Any bid of the agreed minor or 2NT indicates a minimum, given the preceding bids, and is not forcing.
- A bid of 3NT is a natural sign-off.
- Any other suit bid is forcing and shows stoppers below 3NT

### Opener's rebids after a jump (preemptive) raise

- Pass -- this is the usual action.
- 3NT is possible with a balanced hand and 18-19 points.
- A new suit is a game try, showing a strong 4-card suit.
- 4 of the agreed minor is a further preempt and must be passed.
- 5 of the agreed minor is a sign-off in game.

### A word of caution

- Jump (preemptive) raises may not be optimal with a balanced hand and honors in the unbid suits. Prefer 1NT in this case.
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