

BRIDGE TRAVEL OPEN CLINIC: INVERTED MINOR SUIT RAISES

Philosophy:

Incorporating this tool into your basic standard bidding methods will increase your partnership's ability to find minor suit slams and to investigate 3NT when you have a minor suit fit. You will be able to stay out of 3NT with either insufficient points or with a suit not guarded in either hand.

It also enables you to pre-empt the opponent's out of the part-score battle when you and your partner have a minor suit fit by jumping to the 3 level when responding with weak fitting hands.

The basic mechanics of inverted minor suit raises:

The simple raise shows 10+HCP and a fit in opener's minor. Opener must bid again.

The jump raise shows 5-9HCP and a fit in opener's minor. Opener only bids on with 16+HCP.

What responder needs to simple raise:

1. No 4+ card major suit: The search for the 4-4 major fit must come first.
2. 10+HCP (no upper limit). At least 5 clubs over 1C and a good 4 diamonds over 1D.
3. with a 3-3-3-4 or 3-3-4-3 responder bids 2NT with 11-12 and 3NT with 13-15HCP.

What responder needs to jump raise:

1. 5-9 HCP and no 4 card major suit.
2. 5 cards in clubs over 1C and 4 cards in diamonds over 1D and a side suit doubleton or singleton.
3. over 1D responder should opt for 1NT not 3D if the four card support lacks strength (QT9, KT plus).

How the bidding continues after a simple raise:

Opener's next bid:

With a minimum opener has two choices (a) **Bid 2NT with balanced 12 to 14** (upgrade 5 card suit & 14) (b) **bid 3C with unbalanced 11 to 14** (treat 5-3-3-2 as unbalanced for this situation). Responder will only continue bidding with an opening hand, otherwise will Pass. A new suit by responder shows values.

With a maximum (good 14+) opener forces to 3NT or higher by:-

1. Bidding a new suit (showing side suit values): This is usually a trial bid looking for 3NT but can be an advanced slam control bid. Responder bids 3NT (unless too strong) with the other 2 suits controlled and bids side suit with control if missing control in one of the other suits. If either player continues on after partner now bids 3NT, this converts their previous bid into a slam searching control bid rather than a notrump strength showing trial bid.

Bidding straight to 3NT: Some play this as showing a balanced 18-19HCP but is subject to partnership agreement. Others prefer 15-17HCP semi balanced with all side suits stopped. If partner returns to 4 of the minor after 3NT this is RKCB looking for slam.

Jump shifting: This is a splinter. Partner can sign off in 3NT with a double stopper in the splinter suit. Otherwise responder must show side suit first round controls. Returning to the minor denies any.

Bidding 4 of the agreed minor: This is generally used as RKCB setting the minor as trumps. The next bid up after partner's reply (omitting the agreed suit) asks for the trump queen or if it has been shown asks for side suit kings in ascending order.

How the bidding continues after a jump raise:

A new suit by opener shows values and game plus interest: Responder is expected to bid 3NT with control of the omitted suit or show a stopper in a higher ranked suit. With neither responder returns to the agreed minor except with a maximum (8-9HCP) and good 3 card support for opener's major trial suit in which case responder can raise in order to play in the possible moysien game.

A jump in a new suit is a splinter: Clearly opener has a strong wildly shaped hand that has been improved by the knowledge of the big minor suit fit.

4 of the agreed minor is non-forcing: If opener is interested in game or higher they will generally either splinter or bid a new suit. 4NT will now be RKCB in the very unlikely circumstance that opener is interested in slam

LEURA OPEN EXERCISES - INVERTED MINOR SUIT RAISES

Fold this sheet so you can't see partner's cards and bid these hands as a pair

		Write your auction:					
West hand		S	W	N	E	East hand	
1.	♠ A632 ♥ A975 ♦ AJ3 ♣ 42		....		....	1.	♠ Q85 ♥ 8 ♦ KQ952 ♣ QJ92
2.	♠ AJ9 ♥ JT4 ♦ QJ84 ♣ J32		....		....	2.	♠ T ♥ A94 ♦ AKT874 ♣ KT8
3.	♠ KT9 ♥ AK93 ♦ 7 ♣ KT532		....		....	3.	♠ A84 ♥ 2 ♦ AKT8 ♣ AJ942
4.	♠ 3 ♥ T93 ♦ KJ87 ♣ K9762		....		....	4.	♠ K6 ♥ AQ82 ♦ QT952 ♣ A4
5.	♠ 3 ♥ AT4 ♦ AT975 ♣ KQJT		....		....	5.	♠ T98 ♥ K87 ♦ KQ42 ♣ A32
6.	♠ K84 ♥ JT62 ♦ 4 ♣ KQJ32		....		....	6.	♠ - ♥ KQ43 ♦ KQ9 ♣ AT8654
7.	♠ - ♥ AKT8 ♦ T97 ♣ AT8432		....		....	7.	♠ A6 ♥ QJ6 ♦ 8654 ♣ KQJ6
8.	♠ KQ86 ♥ AT9 ♦ AK7654 ♣ -		....		....	8.	♠ AT9 ♥ 8 ♦ Q832 ♣ J6432
9.	♠ KQJ ♥ J63 ♦ 92 ♣ KJT63		....		....	9.	♠ 862 ♥ KT94 ♦ AKT ♣ A97
10.	♠ 8 ♥ K9 ♦ KJT94 ♣ AKQ85		....		....	10.	♠ A74 ♥ A85 ♦ AQ832 ♣ 62

LEURA OPEN EXERCISES - INVERTED MINOR SUIT RAISES

ANSWERS

	West hand	S	W	N	E	East hand	
1.	♠ A632 ♥ A975 ♦ AJ3 ♣ 42				1D 2NT P	2D 3D	1. ♠ Q85 ♥ 8 ♦ KQ952 ♣ QJ92
2.	♠ AJ9 ♥ JT4 ♦ QJ84 ♣ J32				P 2D 2S P	1D 2H 3NT	2. ♠ T ♥ A94 ♦ AKT874 ♣ KT8
3.	♠ KT9 ♥ AK93 ♦ 7 ♣ KT532				1C 3C 3H 5H	2C 3D 4NT 6C	3. ♠ A84 ♥ 2 ♦ AKJ8 ♣ AJ942
4.	♠ 3 ♥ T93 ♦ KJ87 ♣ K9762				P 3D	1D P	4. ♠ K6 ♥ AQ82 ♦ QT952 ♣ A4
5.	♠ 3 ♥ AT ♦ AT9753 ♣ KQJT				1D 2H 3D 4NT 6D	2D 3C 3H 5S	5. ♠ T98 ♥ K87 ♦ KQ42 ♣ A32
6.	♠ K84 ♥ JT62 ♦ 4 ♣ KQJ32				P 1H 4H	1C 3H	6. ♠ 5 ♥ KQ43 ♦ KQ9 ♣ AT865
7.	♠ - ♥ AKT8 ♦ T97 ♣ AT8432				1C 2H 3C 4H	2C 2S 3H P	7. ♠ A6 ♥ QJ6 ♦ 8654 ♣ KQJ6
8.	♠ KQ86 ♥ AT9 ♦ AK7654 ♣ -				1D 3H 4C 4NT 7D	3D 3S 4H 5D	8. ♠ AT9 ♥ 8 ♦ Q832 ♣ J6432
9.	♠ KQJ ♥ J63 ♦ 92 ♣ KJT63				P 2C 2S	1C 2D 3NT	9. ♠ 862 ♥ KT94 ♦ AKT ♣ A97
10.	♠ 8 ♥ K9 ♦ KJT94 ♣ AKQ85				1D 4D 4S 7D	2D 4H 5C	10. ♠ A74 ♥ A85 ♦ AQ832 ♣ 62