

# Your choice: Thursdays at **9:30am OR 4:15pm**

- Jan 8: Filling out the Convention Card
- Jan 15: Signaling (Carding), Etiquette, Procedures & Leads
- **Jan 22: Bergen raises**
- Jan 29: Jacoby 2NT
- Feb 5: New Minor Forcing
- Feb 12: Recap Negative, Takeout + Support Doubles
- Feb 19: 4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing
- Feb 26: Recap TBD
- Mar 5: Recap TBD

# Bergen raises...

...are a form of major-suit raise.

After a 1♥ or 1♠ opening,  
responses of 3♣, 3♦ or 3♥ or 3♠  
show different types of 4+ card  
support.

Developed by Marty Bergen (1948- )

Bergen raises

**All responses to an opening bid of 1 of a major, require an ALERT.**

# Bergen Raises are on...

...after an opponent's X or, by agreement, if the bidding goes:

Opener

1♥

Overcaller

X or 1♠

Responder

3♣, 3♦ or 3♥

## Response of 3♣

Shows 7-9 (or a bad 10) HCP with 4+ of opener's major, known as a constructive raise.

## Response of 3♦

Shows a good 10 to a bad 12  
HCP with 4+ of opener's  
major, known as a limit raise.

Response of 3♥ or 3♠

Shows 0-6 HCP with 4+ of opener's major, known as a preemptive raise.

# Bergen examples

Your partner opens 1♠. What do you bid with each of the following (you are not a passed hand):

1. ♠QJ32    ♥KJ4    ♦92    ♣J976

2. ♠AQ54    ♥J32    ♦KJ92    ♣43

3. ♠KT98    ♥6543    ♦T973    ♣2

# More examples

Your partner opens 1♠. What do you bid with each of the following (you are not a passed hand):

4. ♠QJ3      ♥AT654      ♦KQJ      ♣J4

5. ♠QJT64    ♥AQ654      ♦J2      ♣2

6. ♠KQT98    ♥AQJ      ♦AKT9      ♣2

# And some more examples

Your partner opens 1♥. What do you bid with each of the following (you are not a passed hand):

7. ♠QT98    ♥Q32    ♦AT    ♣QJT9

8. ♠QJT    ♥QJT9    ♦QJT    ♣T98

9. ♠QJT    ♥T987    ♦QT98    ♣32

# The Pros

The primary benefits of Bergen raises are that:

1. Opener receives more detailed information than if playing standard raises.
2. The partnership reaches the 3-level faster than if playing limit raises; this “fast” arrival may preempt the opponents. The Law of Total Tricks (also popularized by Marty Bergen) says that a pair should usually bid up to the 3-level when holding a combined 9+ trumps.
3. Good 4♥/4♠ games are occasionally reached even when responder makes a preemptive raise.

# The Cons

Many experts have gone on record citing the potential drawbacks of Bergen raises.

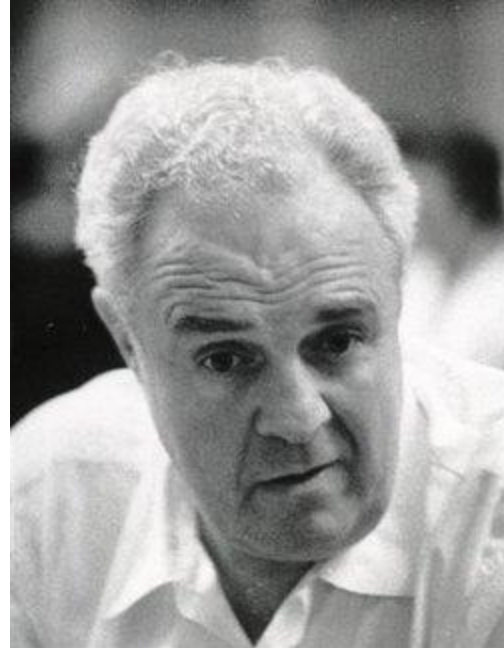
Some of our top players in the club don't like Bergen raises, but for most of us, it's a very useful tool.

**Next week:**

**On Thu, Jan 29 at 9:30am or 4:15pm**

**(your choice)**

**Jacoby 2NT**



**Oswald Jacoby**  
**(1902-1984)**