

New series of 10 topics – Thursdays at 9:30am or 4:15pm

Jun 25: Preemptive bids

Jul 2: Bergen raises

Jul 9: Bids after Opponents 1NT opening bid

Jul 16: Unusual 2NT and Michaels

Jul 23: Doubles – take out, negative and support

Jul 30: Inverted minors

Aug 6: Jacoby 2NT

Aug 13: Blackwood and Gerber

Aug 20: Drury

Aug 27: New minor forcing and 4th suit forcing

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.

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 to a 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.

Opposite a 1♠ opening bid: What's a
“good” 10 and a “bad” 10?

- | | | | |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| 1. ♠T987 | ♥KQJ | ♦A2 | ♣T987 |
| 2. ♠QJT9 | ♥AK98 | ♦987 | ♣32 |
| 3. ♠A432 | ♥T987 | ♦KQJ | ♣32 |
| 4. ♠A432 | ♥K32 | ♦Q32 | ♣J32 |
| 5. ♠A432 | ♥K32 | ♦QJ | ♣432 |
| 6. ♠Q432 | ♥A32 | ♦Q32 | ♣Q32 |

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

You open 1♠, your partner bids 3♣,
what do you rebid?

1. ♠AK432 ♥QJT ♦QJT ♣32

2. ♠AK432 ♥AK32 ♦A2 ♣32

3. ♠AK5432 ♥AK32 ♦A2 ♣2

You open 1♠, your partner bids 3♦, what do you rebid?

1. ♠AK432

♥QT

♦QJT

♣J32

2. ♠AK432

♥AK32

♦32

♣32

3. ♠AK5432

♥AK3

♦AK2

♣2

You open 1♠, your partner bids 3♠, what do you rebid?

1. ♠AK432 ♥QJT ♦QJT ♣32

2. ♠AK432 ♥AK32 ♦K2 ♣32

3. ♠AK5432 ♥AK32 ♦A32 ♣-

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

A few experts have gone on record against Bergen Raises. **BUT** almost everyone in our Open games uses Bergen Raises.

Next Thursday, July 9

Bids after Opponents 1NT opening bid