

CONVENTIONS

INVERTED MINOR SUIT RAISE

Bridge Lab

with the Monroes

In today's standard bidding methods, there is no straightforward forcing raise of partner's minor suit opening bid. Most of the time, that's not a problem because of the priorities for Responder.

Responder's Priorities

1. Find a Major Suit fit and contract.
2. Find a Notrump contract.
3. Play a minor suit contract.

3rd Priority — INVERTED MINOR SUIT RAISE

Add a forcing raise of partner's minor suit.

RESPONDER'S MINOR SUIT RAISE	Opening Bid is 1♣ or 1♦		
		INVERTED	STANDARD
✓ NO 4-card Major Suit. ✓ Unsuitable or too strong to bid NoTrump. ✓ 5-card support for the minor suit.	2♣ or 2♦ Single Raise	10+ Points [Unlimited] FORCING	6 - 9 Points NOT FORCING
	3♣ or 3♦ Jump Raise	0-6 Points Preemptive NOT FORCING	10+ - 12 Points [Limited] NOT FORCING
	1NT	6-9 Points MAY BE UNBALANCED NOT FORCING	6-9 Points USUALLY BALANCED NOT FORCING

POINT VALUATION Focus on HCP when contract target is unclear. Revalue as you go.

Suit Contract = HCP + shortness **NT Contract** = HCP + minimal length

OPENER'S REBIDS after the Forcing Raise

Auction is forcing to the 3-level of the agreed minor suit.

2NT = FORCING	Both major suits stopped.
2♥ or 2♠ FORCING	Stopper in the suit bid, no stopper in the other major suit.
3♣ or 3♦ [agreed suit] NOT FORCING	Raise agreed minor suit = Weakest hand, weak major suits.
Bid the unbid <i>minor</i> suit with extras and no better option. FORCING	

Recommendations - Discuss with Partner !

ON or OFF ?	ON if Responder is a passed hand (11-12 points maximum). OFF in Competition (double or overcall by right-hand opponent).
HOW HIGH ?	May stop in partscore if either player rebids 3-level of the agreed minor suit (weakest bid).

INVERTED MINOR SUIT RAISES

Inverted Minor Suit Raises provide a method to make both a forcing raise and preemptive raise of partner's minor suit.

North Deals

♠ A K 8			
♥ 6 2			
♦ A 7 4 3			
♣ J 8 6 4			
♠ Q J 9 2	N	♠ 10 5 4 3	
♥ 10 9 4 3	W	♥ A K 8 5	
♦ 5 2	E	♦ 9	
♣ K 7 2	S	♣ 10 9 5 3	
12	♠ 7 6		
6 7	♥ Q J 7		
15	♦ K Q J 10 8 6		
	♣ A Q		

NS 4N; NS 4♦; NS 2♣; EW 1♠; EW 1♥; Par +430

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♠ ²	Pass	3N ³

All pass

1. Forcing Raise. 11+ points, 5+ ♦s.
2. ♠ stopped, weak ♥s. Forcing.
3. ♥s and ♣s stopped, game values. No slam interest.

Contract: 3 NT by South **Opening Lead:** ♠ Q, Top of 3-card *broken* sequence

Sure Winners: two ♠s + six ♦s + one ♣ = 9 **Tricks Needed:** zero

Auction. South has 17 points in support of ♦s, potential interest in a ♦ slam, and needs more information about Opener's hand to make the decision of How High and Where. Following the 2♦ forcing raise, North's bid of 2♠ denies a stopper in ♥s and is forcing. South abandons hope for slam as it appears the partnership is missing both the ♥ A and ♥ K. With both ♥s and ♣s stopped, South simply settles for game in 3NT.

Declarer Play. Win the ♠ A at trick one. With the ♠ K still in Dummy, it is safe to try the ♣ finesse at trick two for an extra trick. The ♣ finesse loses to West's ♣ K, but the ♣ J is now established as a winning trick. Once the ♠ A and ♠ K are played, take the tricks and run to make the contract. Do not risk the contract for a potential overtrick. South always loses two ♥s, and thoughtfully avoided a bad slam.

Defense. The lead of the ♠ Q shows a 3-card sequence. Since East holds the ♠ 10, East knows West led from a *broken* sequence, precisely ♠ Q♠ J♠ 9. If Declarer plays low at trick one, East will win the ♠ 10. If Declarer plays high at trick one, East can send an encouraging message with the ♠ 10 to continue with the ♠ suit. How does East know it's safe to signal with the ♠ 10?

Inverted Minor Suit Raise

No Heart Stopper

Board 1

North Deals

♠ Q J 9 2 ♥ 10 9 4 3 ♦ 5 2 ♣ K 7 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 5 4 3 ♥ A K 8 5 ♦ 9 ♣ 10 9 5 3	♠ 7 6 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ K Q J 10 8 6 ♣ A Q
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3N ²

All pass

1. Spade stopper, no heart stopper.
2. Heart stopper

Contract: 3NT South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♠Q, Broken Seq., East plays ♠5.

Sure Tricks: 2-♠, 6-♦, 1-♣ = 9.

Play: Take 9 sure tricks or promote ♣J for an overtrick.

Both Spade and Heart Stopper

Board 2

South Deals

♠ K 9 7 3 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ 10 9 8 4 ♣ 10 7	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 10 8 2 ♥ 9 7 5 4 3 ♦ A J 2 ♣ 4	♠ A Q 5 ♥ A J 10 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ Q 9 6 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	1♣
Pass	3N	All pass	2N ²

1. 11+ Points, 5+♣s, Forcing
2. ♠ & ♥ Stoppers, Forcing

Contract: 3NT South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♠3, 4th highest, East plays ♠10

Sure Tricks: 1-♠, 1-♥, 6-♣ = 8.

Play: The opening lead gives South a free finesse. South promotes a ♦, wins six ♣s, and wins the ♥A and the ♠A. South avoids the double finesse in ♥s.

No Club Stopper

Board 3

South Deals

♠ 8 7 6 2 ♥ Q 9 7 3 ♦ 10 ♣ K Q 10 9	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 10 5 3 ♥ 10 8 6 2 ♦ J 9 5 ♣ A 2	♠ Q 9 ♥ K J 5 4 ♦ A Q 3 2 ♣ J 8 3
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²

All pass

1. Has ♠ Stopper
2. Does Not Have a ♣ Stopper

Contract: 3♦ South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♣K, Top of seq., East overtakes.

Losers: 1-♠, 1-♥, 1-♦, 3-♣ = 6.

Play: South loses three ♣s, wins the 4th trick, draws trump (3-1 split), and finesses the ♠K (loses).

Weak Raise

Board 4

South Deals

♠ 9 8 5 3 ♥ A J 6 5 ♦ 10 2 ♣ A 5 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 10 7 6 ♥ Q 9 8 7 ♦ Q ♣ K 7 4 3	♠ A K Q ♥ K 10 2 ♦ A K 8 6 ♣ 10 9 8
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♦ ¹	All pass	1♦

1. Long ♦s, less than 7 points

Contract: 3♦ South, 9 Tricks

Lead: ♠3, 4th highest, East plays ♠10.

Losers: 3-♥, 1-♦, 2-♣ = 6.

Play: South wins the ♠A, draws trump, wins the ♠KQ discarding a ♥, loses two ♣s and a ♥, but ruffs two ♥s in Dummy and wins a ♣.