



Finding a marginal game in the majors

♠ K 9 2	You open 1♥ and partner responds 2♥, both opponents pass.	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
♥ A K Q 6 5					1♥
♦ 9 6 3		P	2♥	P	?
♣ A 3					

What now?

You have five losers and partner has nine or ten. Clearly, there are good chances of game if partner holds the right cards and little hope if partner holds the wrong ones.

Should you play safe and pass – and miss game? Jump to 4♥ and hope it makes? Bid 3♥ and hope partner knows what to do?

How can you ask for help in Diamonds?



Trial Bids

The "Trial Bid" is the solution for this situation. In these circumstances, a bid of 3 ♦, asks for a first or second round stop in the bid suit.

This is only used when the partners have opened a **major**, and then raised it to the **two level**.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1 ♥
P	2 ♥	P	3 ♦

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
			1 ♦
P	2 ♦	P	2 ♥

If the opening bid is one of a minor, raised to two of the same minor, then a change of suit shows a strong opening hand showing a suit with a stop, and

looking for a no trumps contract. This is forcing for one round and the response should show another suit with a stop, or repeat the original minor if very weak.

This is not a cue bid. You are only at the two level.



Replying to a Trial Bid

Partner is asking for help in a particular suit. Typically partner has three losers in that suit. Can you reduce the potential losses to one or less?

Bid game with no or one loser in that suit whether maximum or minimum for your original raise

♠ Q 7 3	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
♥ J 10 8 4 3				1♥
♦ 7	P	2♥	P	3♦
♣ K J 4 2	P	?		

7 HCP

8/9 Losers

The hand can trump after one round in Diamonds, so respond:

	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
				1♥
	P	2♥	P	3♦
	P	4♥		



BJ L07 Trial Bids

NOTES

With two losers in the trial bid suit and a minimum hand sign off in three but, bid four with a maximum hand

♠ Q 7 3	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
♥ J 10 7 4				1♥
♦ 7 4	P	2♥	P	3♦
♣ K J 4 2	P	?		

7 HCP	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
9/10 Losers				1♥
The hand has two losers in	P	2♥	P	3♦
Diamonds, so respond:	P	3♥		

Trial bids are not alertable. The suit bid will have at least three cards. Bidding a three-card is designated natural under the regulations.