

Inverted Minors



I know we're getting married in a few minutes, but I've got a slam here!



Tom Snow
(805) 305-5035
coinerbop@gmail.com

Time for Some Jokes

A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the highway. Looking at the car, he was astounded to see that the elderly woman behind the wheel was knitting. The trooper cranked down his window and yelled to the driver, "Pull over!"

"No!" the woman yelled back, "Cardigan!"

My wife does this cute thing now and then where she goes out shopping for next year's yard sale items.

Is marriage just two people taking turns mashing the trash down in the hopes the other one will fold first and empty the bin?

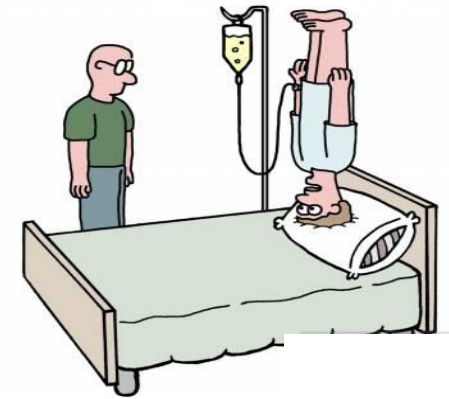
Inverted Minors

The Problem:

Partner opens 1D and RHO passes. What do you bid with:

♠A73 ♥53 ♦A10943 ♣AQ2

Using conventional methods, 3D is invitational. Do you gamble with 3NT? Partner may not have hearts stopped, and the lead is going through his heart holding. You may belong in 5D, or even 6D.



"The doctors say I'll be back on my feet soon."

The Solution:

Play the modern method of Inverted Minors.

Playing Inverted Minors means that if you respond to your partner's opening minor suit bid with a simple raise in his suit, your bid shows 5+ trumps, 11+ HCP and no 4+-card major. It is forcing until either partner bids 2NT or 3 of the agreed minor:

1C – Pass – 2C*

1D – Pass – 2D* (BOTH ALERTABLE)

If you jump raise in his minor, it's pre-emptive, showing 5+ trumps and 4-7 HCP's:

1C – Pass – 3C*

1D – Pass – 3D* (BOTH ALERTABLE)

With 8-10 HCPs, just bid 1NT. It's enough HCPs to play there.

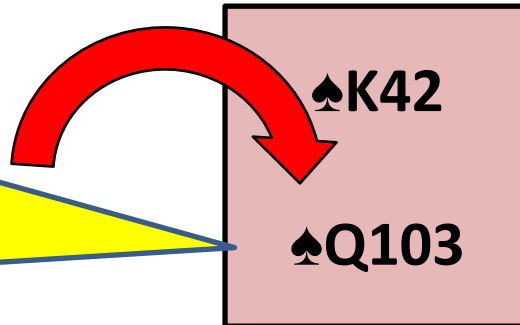
Advantages of Inverted Minors:

- A jump raise jams the opponent's auction.
- A slow forcing raise let's your side explore for No Trump played from the right side.

Playing from the Right Side



With the lead coming into the Q103 hand (as declarer), the spade suit is double protected no matter which opponent has the ♠J or the ♠A.



1)

	North	East	South	West
	Pass	1C	Pass	1D
	Pass	1H	Pass	???

3NT

West ♠Q102 ♥K53 ♦AK973 ♣J5

2)

	North	East	South	West
	Pass	1C	Pass	1D
	Pass	1S	Pass	???


2H*


West ♠K42 ♥K53 ♦AQ973 ♣J5


*This is 4th Suit Forcing (forcing to game).


Playing from the Right Side




♠ K42

 ♠ A103

♠ Q42

 ♠ A103

♠ A42

 ♠ K103

♠ Q42

 ♠ K103

♠ A42

 ♠ Q103

♠ K42

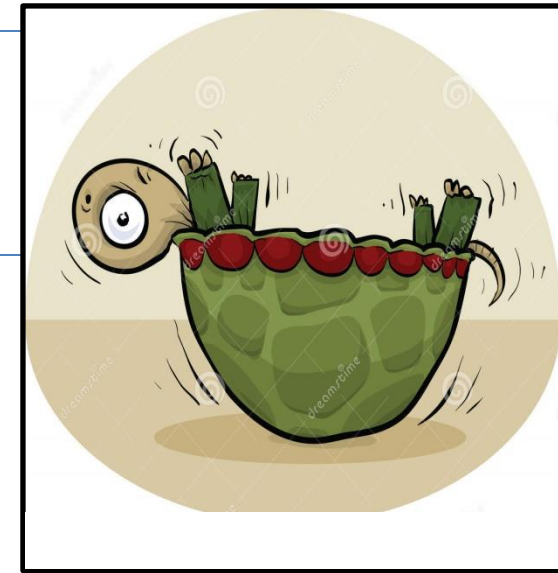
 ♠ Q103

Your Holding	Partner's Holding						
	A102	K32	K102	Q102	Q2	J53	J2
AK10		Yours			Yours	Yours	Yours
AQ10		Yours			Yours	Yours	Yours
AJ10		Yours			Yours	Yours	Yours
A102		Yours			Yours	Yours	Yours
A10 or A9		Yours		Either	Yours	Yours	Yours
KQ10		Yours			Yours	Yours	Yours
KQ2	Partner's	Yours			Yours	Yours	Yours
KJ102		Yours			Yours	Yours	Yours
KJ32	Partner's	Yours		Either	Yours	Yours	Yours
K102					Yours	Yours	Yours
K32	Partner's			Partner's	Partner's	Either	Partner's
K10 or K9	Yours			Yours	Yours	Yours	Yours
K2	Partner's			Partner's	Either	Yours	Yours
QJ3	Partner's	Either	Either				
QJ10 or QJ9	Either	Either	Either				
Q102 or Q92	Either	Yours	Either			Either	Either
Q32	Either	Either	Partner's			Either	Either
Q2	Yours	Yours	Partner's			Either	Either
J102		Either			Either		
J32	Partner's	Either	Partner's	Either	Either		
J2	Partner's	Yours	Partner's	Either	Either		

Rule 1: Once you identify the weak suit, the hand with a 10 supported by an A, K or Q declares.
 Rule 2: If Rule #1 does not apply and both hands have honors (A, K, Q, J), the shorter side declares.
 If Rule #1 does not apply and one side has no honors, his partner declares.

Inverted Minors

Caution: Many times opener will have 12-14 HCPs because he didn't open 1NT.



1)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	Pass	???
3C*				
West	♠97 ♥J53 ♦743 ♣KJ865			

2)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	Pass	???
1NT				
West	♠Q3 ♥K92 ♦K83 ♣J9764			

3)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1D	Pass	???
2D*				
West	♠KQ10 ♥A53 ♦Q9743 ♣85			

4)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	1S	???
2C				
West	♠83 ♥J82 ♦A105 ♣QJ764			

Inverted Minors are off after an opponent enters the auction.

Inverted Minors are on, even if you're a passed hand, but not if an opponent overcalls.

Inverted Minor Practice



You have enough HCPs to play in No Trump (and honors to protect).

1)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	Pass	1C	Pass
	2C*	???		
North	♠75 ♥QJ5 ♦A93 ♣KJ854			

4)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1C	Pass	???
	1NT			
West	♠K72 ♥K92 ♦K4 ♣87653			

2)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1D	Pass	???
	1S			
West	♠Q1062 ♥A5 ♦AJ963 ♣95			

5)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	Pass	1D	Pass
	3D*	???		
North	♠J73 ♥865 ♦KJ873 ♣85			

Don't forget the majors.

Inv. Minors are still on after you've passed.

3)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	1H	???
	3C			
West	♠J107 ♥32 ♦Q43 ♣QJ875			

6)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1D	Pass	???
	Pass			
West	♠73 ♥K43 ♦Q973 ♣9873			

Even though Inverted Minors are off in competition, a jump to 3C is pre-emptive because you have a cue bid of 2H available.

Even though a 1D opener usually has a 4-card suit, there's not enough shape here to warrant a pre-empt. Stay out of trouble.



The Minors High Road

If partner bids 2S, bid 2NT (with diamonds also stopped but with no extra HCPs). If he bids 3C, you should pass.

Shows ♥'s stopped but not ♠'s.

After an IM, stoppers are bid up the line (focusing on the majors), usually trying to get to 2NT or 3NT.

Remember, a rebid of 2NT or 3-of-the-minor by either person is not forcing.

1)

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	2C*	Pass
???			

2H*

North ♠75 ♥KJ5 ♦AJ3 ♣KJ854

4)

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	2C*	Pass
???			

2NT

North ♠KJ2 ♥KQ2 ♦94 ♣A7653

Both majors stopped and a minimum. Bid 3NT with more HCPs.

If partner then bids 3S (extras), you bid 3NT.

2)

North	East	South	West
1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
???	Pass	???	

3C

North ♠62 ♥Q5 ♦AQ963 ♣KKQ5

No real major suit stoppers, but you have clubs stopped. HCPs still unknown.

5)

North	East	South	West
1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
2S	Pass	???	

3S*

South ♠AK3 ♥5 ♦KQ10873 ♣A85

♦ Slam try - Partner bypassed 2H, so not much wasted.

3)

North	East	South	West
1C	Pass	2C*	Pass
???			

3C

North ♠J7 ♥2 ♦KQ43 ♣AQJ875

6)

North	East	South	West
1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
3C	Pass	???	

3NT

South ♠AQ ♥K43 ♦KQ973 ♣873

You cannot commit this hand to game by going beyond 3C. Partner will know that you have at least one ♦ honor with neither major suit stopped.

More Jokes

A man tells his doctor that he's incapable of doing all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination is over, he says, "Okay, Doctor. In plain English—what's wrong with me?" "Well," says the doctor, "you're just lazy." The man nods. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

A police officer jumps into his squad car and calls the station.

"I have an interesting case here," he says. "A woman shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."

"Have you arrested her?" asks the sergeant.

"No, not yet. The floor's still wet."

Hand #1

Shows spade stoppers, but worried about ♣'s for No Trump.

* Shows ♥ stoppers but no ♠ stopper. HCPs unknown.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
2H*	Pass	2S*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North
 ♠ J62
 ♥ KQ3
 ♦ AJ83
 ♣ Q84

Shows help in the ♣ suit but minimum HCPs.

West
 ♠ Q73
 ♥ A1085
 ♦ 92
 ♣ A763

Enough HCPs for game.

East
 ♠ 10985
 ♥ 962
 ♦ 76
 ♣ K1095

The 9 shows zero cards higher, or the 10 and a card higher than the J.

Best Lead:
 9♣

South
 ♠ AK4
 ♥ J74
 ♦ KQ1054
 ♣ J2

N/S makes 3NT.
 E/W makes nothing.

A jump raise in competition is weak because a 2C bid (6-9 HCPs) and a cue bid of 2H (10+ HCPs) are both available.

Hand #2

Responsive Double:
Partner, I have enough HCPs to compete at this level and the other two unbid suits.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1C	1H	3C	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North
 ♠ 10964
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ AJ3
 ♣ AQ94

West
 ♠ A753
 ♥ 65
 ♦ KQ1052
 ♣ 83

East
 ♠ KJ2
 ♥ AK1072
 ♦ 974
 ♣ J5

This is why overcalls need to be decent hands! Sometimes they have a good fit, but here you have none. Sitting for the double is best (they go down 2).

South
 ♠ Q8
 ♥ J984
 ♦ 86
 ♣ K10762

N/S makes 2C.

E/W makes 1H, 1S or 2D.

Hand #3

Tells my partner that it's our hand (10+ HCPs). "I want the next bid, unless you have a big surprise for me, or you want to double them in front of me."

This doesn't show 6-9 HCP's. If your side is in trouble and you have a clear preference for a suit, bid it to tell partner. A pass here doesn't mean you want to defend!

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Dbl	Redbl	1H
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North
 ♠ AJ10
 ♥ J3
 ♦ AQ943
 ♣ 654

The cadence of the hand has changed.

Partner will know I'm at the bottom of my range (10-11) with a heart stopper(s) but not enough hearts to double them at such a low level.

West
 ♠ 93
 ♥ 8765
 ♦ K1087
 ♣ J87

East
 ♠ KQ72
 ♥ A1092
 ♦ J2
 ♣ A103

South
 ♠ 8654
 ♥ KQ4
 ♦ 65
 ♣ KQ92

N/S makes 2NT.

E/W makes 1H.

Hand #4

West should've preempted to 4H with a lot of offense but not much defense.

* This is called a Splinter Bid. After finding a fit, it shows slam interest and a singleton or void in the suit jumped in, or in this case, jump cue bid.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1C	Pass	2C*	2H
4H*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5H	Pass	5NT	Pass
6D	Pass	7C	P. Out

2 aces.

1 king.

Blackwood, asking for aces.

Asking for kings is also the way to invite partner to a grand slam.

North
 ♠ AJ76
 ♥
 ♦ AQ42
 ♣ KQ1042

Yep, I think we can take all the tricks.

East
 ♠ 109532
 ♥ 1082
 ♦ 653
 ♣ 83

West
 ♠ Q
 ♥ KQJ7653
 ♦ J1087
 ♣ J

South
 ♠ K84
 ♥ A94
 ♦ K9
 ♣ A9765

N/S makes 7C or 6NT.
 E/W makes 1H.

Hand #5

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3D	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Showing ♥ and ♠ stoppers and a minimum hand. There's no HCPs left for club stoppers.

With a minimum (invitational) hand and no apparent ♣ stoppers, South should correct to 3D.

West
 ♠ Q105
 ♥ 10976
 ♦ 7
 ♣ KQJ42

North
 ♠ AJ6
 ♥ KJ83
 ♦ A9864
 ♣ 6

East
 ♠ 9873
 ♥ A2
 ♦ 105
 ♣ A10973

South
 ♠ K42
 ♥ Q54
 ♦ KQJ32
 ♣ 85

N/S makes 1NT or 4D.

E/W makes 2C.

Hand #6

South has a little extra and diamond stoppers.

North was intending to rebid 2NT but partner's Inverted Minor put them in slam territory.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1C	Pass	2C*	Pass
2S	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	4C	Pass
4H	Pass	4NT	Pass

North
 ♠ A1062
 ♥ A52
 ♦ K4
 ♣ AKJ2

Initially shows spade cards and not heart cards.

West
 ♠ 9873
 ♥ KJ76
 ♦ J987
 ♣ 6

Hearts are a threat. We probably can't make 3NT.

Ace asking, then king asking, then on to 6C, 6NT, 7C or 7NT.

East
 ♠ J5
 ♥ Q10984
 ♦ 1065
 ♣ 854

This bid turns all of North's previous bids below 3NT into control showing bids (aces and kings).

Showing one heart card.

South
 ♠ KQ4
 ♥ 3
 ♦ AQ32
 ♣ Q10973

N/S makes 7C or 7NT.
 E/W makes nothing.

Playtime

