

Limit Raises



Major Suit Raises

History

- In the past, a jump raise of partner's opening major suit was game forcing.
- Nothing wrong with doing that, but makes the bidding difficult when you have an invitational game bid.
- An invitational hand is more common. Therefore, modern bridge players use the jump raise to show an invitational hand.

The Major Suit Limit Raise

- A Major suit limit raise shows:
 - At least a 3-card (much prefer 4 cards) support for partner's opening bid.
 - 11 or 12 (or a very good 10) points.
- The limit raise begins where the single raise left off.

What Does a Very Good 10 Points Look Like?

You are responder. Partner opens

1 ♥

♠ 4 2

♥ K J 10 9

♦ 10 9 5

♣ K Q J 4

Do You Need 4-Card Support

- This is a partnership agreement.
 - Some prefer to have 4 trump.
 - Others will do it with 3.
 - Discuss it with your partner.
- Some people like to play a jump raise as weak and preemptive.
- If you play it that way, you must also play either “1 nt. Forcing” or “Bergen Raises” in order to show an invitational hand.

One No Trump Forcing is a Useful Convention

- Opener Responder
 - 1 (major) 1 nt
 - 2 (minor) 3 (opener's major)
- **Limit raise with 3-card support.**

Limit Raise Example 1

1 ♥ ... 3 ♥

♠ 4 2

♥ Q 7 4 3

♦ K Q 3

♣ K J 8 3

Limit Raise Example 2

1 ♠ ... 3 ♠

♠ K 10 4 2

♥ 3

♦ A Q 8 4 3

♣ 9 8 3

Limit Raise Example 3

1 ♠ ... 3 ♠

♠ K J 2

♥ K J 3

♦ 8 4

♣ Q J 10 8 3

Limit Raise Example 4

1 ♠ ... 3 ♠

♠ 9 7 5 2

♥ K Q 3

♦ 8 4

♣ A Q 9 8 3

Responding to a Limit Raise

- It is a matter of judgement, but in general you should:
 - Accept the invitation with 14 or 15 points.
 - Refuse the invitation with 11 or 12 points.
 - Use your judgement with 13 points.

Responding to Limit Raise Example 1

1 ♠ ... 3 ♠

♠ A Q 9 8 7

♥ 10 9 3

♦ Q 4

♣ A 9 8

♠ K J 4 3

♥ A 4

♦ 9 8 3

♣ Q 6 5 3

12 points. Insufficient
values for game. **Pass**

Responding to Limit Raise Example 2

1 ♥ ... 3 ♥

♠ 6

♥ K Q 10 9 3

♦ A K 9 8

♣ Q 4 3

♠ K J 4

♥ A J 7 4

♦ 3

♣ J 9 6 5 2

14 points. Sufficient values for game. 4 ♥

Responding to Limit Raise Example 3

1 ♥ ... 3 ♥

♠ 6 5

♥ K Q J 10 9

♦ K Q 9

♣ Q 4 3

♠ K Q J 4

♥ A 9 7 4

♦ 3 2

♣ J 9 6

13 points. Except for the heart suit you lack middle cards. Not a particularly good 13 **pass**

Responding to Limit Raise Example 4

1 ♠ ... 3 ♠

♠ A Q 10 9 6 5

♥ A 2

♦ K 7

♣ A K 4

♠ K 8 3 2

♥ K J 3

♦ J 2

♣ Q J 6 5

21 points. If partner has just one key card, you will have a play for six spades. 4 nt

Responding to Limit Raise Example 4

1 ♠ ... 3 ♠

♠ A J 10 9 6 5

♥ A Q

♦ 9 7

♣ A K 4

♠ K 8 7 3

♥ K 9 3

♦ A 5 3 2

♣ Q 6

18 points. Cue bid clubs to see if partner has a diamond control. If so, you have a play for slam 4 ♣

Using a Cue Bid as Limit Raise

- Partner opens the bidding, RHO overcalls, if you have a limit raise, cue bid the opponent's suit.
- Cue bid indicates a limit raise or better.
- This allows you to use a direct raise as competitive or preemptive.

Consider the Following Bidding Sequences

Sequence 1 Showing a Limit Raise

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣	pass

Sequence 2 Showing a Preemptive Raise

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♠	pass

North	East	South	West
---	----	1 ♥	2 ♣
3 ♣	pass	3 ♥	pass

South

♠ J 8 6

♥ K Q 10 8 6 3

♦ A Q

♣ 8 6

North

♠ K 9 7 3

♥ A J 9 4

♦ 9 5

♣ Q J 2

North	East	South	West
---	----	1 ♥	2 ♣
3 ♣	pass	4 ♥	pass

South

♠ A J 10

♥ K Q 10 8 6 3

♦ A Q

♣ 8 6

North

♠ K 9 7 3

♥ A J 9 4

♦ 9 5

♣ Q J 2

North	East	South	West
---	----	1 ♥	2 ♣
3 ♣	pass	3 ♥	pass
4 ♥			

South

♠ J 8 6

♥ K Q 10 8 6 3

♦ A Q

♣ 8 6

North

♠ A K 9 7

♥ A J 9 4

♦ 9 5

♣ Q J 2