

# Bergen Raises

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[*Note: much of this material is from the Schwartz-Williams course on 2 Over 1 Bidding*]

Bergen raises allow responder to distinguish between 3 and 4 card support when partner opens a major in first or second seat. The motivation for using them is to exploit the value of the 9th trump.

*“80% of the time the 4th trump will win an extra trick.”*

*“the 4th trump is worth a King.”*

It is usually safe to be at the 3 level with 9 trump; it will either make or be a good sacrifice. (from *The law of total tricks.*)

Want to be able to distinguish raises as:

- weak, constructive, or limit strength
- 3 card or 4 card support

Bergen raises are “on” when partner opens a major in first or second seat.

They are “off” if responder is a passed hand.

There are several possibilities for handling interference.

We will use Reverse Bergen Raises (Bergen originally reversed the roles of the 3C and 3D responses.)

Responses to 1♥ by an Unpassed Hand

2♥ <sup>a</sup>	<u>If</u> playing 1NT forcing, - a 3-card constructive raise; 7-9 support points <u>otherwise</u> - a simple 3-card raise; 6-9 support points
2NT	Jacoby Raise; 4+ trumps; 13+ support points
3♣ <sup>a</sup>	4-card limit raise; 10-12 support points; { <b>Note</b> – 3♣/3♦ interchanged originally}
3♦ <sup>a</sup>	4-card const. raise; 7-9 support points;
3♥ <sup>a</sup>	4-card preemptive raise; 0-6 support points (2?-6 vul.)

4♥	direct game raise; 5+ hearts; less than 10 support points
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<sup>a</sup> these bids must all be alerted (note: 2♥ now shows exactly 3 cd support)

### Disadvantages of using Bergen raises

Most jump shifts are used up.

(But playing 2/1 we don't need jump shifts for strong hands anymore.)

Some advocate using jump shifts for weak hands.

Others use jump shifts for invitational 6+ card suits.

We prefer to use them for refining major raises.

Examples:

After partner opens 1♠ in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> seat and RHO passes:

If you hold: bid:

♠KT96 ♥K53 ♦92 ♣T742	3♦
♠962 ♥Q875 ♦J2 ♣KQT5	2♠
♠T54 ♥KT652 ♦7 ♣AQ984	1N if playing 1NT forcing, 2♣ otherwise.
♠J432 ♥J98 ♦85 ♣AKJ6	3♣
♠A97 ♥Q64 ♦9853 ♣872	1N then 2♠ if playing 1NT forcing, 2♠ otherwise.

After partner opens 1♥ in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> seat and RHO passes:

If you hold: bid:

♠K65 ♥QT65 ♦K43 ♣872	3♦
♠A43 ♥J95 ♦K874 ♣T54	2♥
♠8 ♥KJ963 ♦QT73 ♣864	4♥
♠94 ♥QJT6 ♦97432 ♣85	3♥
♠AQ73 ♥T972 ♦K8 ♣J95	3♣

Don't use Bergen raises after a 3rd seat opening

- opener might be weak
- opener might have only a 4 card suit
- much better to use Drury
- the 3M preempt is less useful

How about over interference? Options:

- 1) Bergen raises are "off"
- 2) Bergen raises are "on" if 3C is still a jump.

- 3) other possibilities: Jordan 2NT, XX, “BROMAD”(google this)
  - 4) try to keep the 3M preemptive raise
- Choose an option and confirm with partner!

Defending against Bergen raises

- You have a more accurate count of the opponent’s hands – use it!
- Use double of 3M and 3D as takeout.
- Use double of 3C as lead directing (they have more than half the points.)

Exercises:


After 1♠		After 1♥	
1	♠KT96 ♥K53 ♦92 ♣T742	6	♠K65 ♥QT65 ♦K43 ♣872
2	♠962 ♥Q875 ♦J2 ♣KQT5	7	♠A43 ♥J95 ♦K874 ♣T54
3	♠T54 ♥KT652 ♦7 ♣AQ984	8	♠8 ♥KJ963 ♦QT73 ♣864
4	♠J432 ♥J98 ♦85 ♣AKJ6	9	♠94 ♥QJT6 ♦97432 ♣85
5	♠A97 ♥Q64 ♦9853 ♣872	10	♠AQ73 ♥T972 ♦K8 ♣J95

Answers:

- 1- 3♦; 2- 2♠; 3- 2♣ then 3♠ (1NT then 3♠ if playing 2/1)
- 4- 3♣; 5- 2♠ (1NT then 2♠ if playing 1NT forcing)
- 6- 3♦; 7- 2♥; 8- 4♥; 9- 3♥; 10- 3♣

*Board 1*  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

hand A  
 A Q 10 8 4 3  
 8  
 A K 8 5  
 10 9


K 2		7
A Q J 10 4		K 3 2
Q J		10 9 7 4 3
K 8 7 2		A Q 5 4

J 9 6 5  
 9 7 6 5  
 6 2  
 J 6 3

W 4N; EW 4 ; NS 3 ; EW 4 ; EW 3

*Board 2*  
 East Deals  
 None Vul

hand B  
 7 4 3  
 K 9 4  
 Q 10 4  
 A 10 8 5


K 5 2		A 10 6
10 7 5 2		A Q J 8 3
5 2		K J 8 7
K Q 6 3		4

Q J 9 8  
 6  
 A 9 6 3  
 J 9 7 2

EW 4 ; EW 2N; EW 1 ; EW 1 ; NS 1

*Board 3*  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

hand C  
 A Q 10 8 3  
 10 8 2  
 J 6  
 K 9 6


4 2		6 5
A Q 6		J 5 4
Q 7 5 3 2		A K 10 4
Q 10 2		J 8 7 3

K J 9 7  
 K 9 7 3  
 9 8  
 A 5 4

NS 2 ; NS 2 ; EW 2 ; EW 2

*Board 4*  
 West Deals  
 None Vul

hand D  
 J  
 Q J 10 3  
 10 8 4 3  
 A 8 6 4

A 6 5 4 3 2		K 9 8 7
9		A 6 4 2
K 7 5		Q 6
K Q 3		J 7 2

Q 10  
 K 8 7 5  
 A J 9 2  
 10 9 5

EW 5 ; EW 2N; NS 1 ; EW 1