

Cue-Bid Raises

Presented June 25, 2025

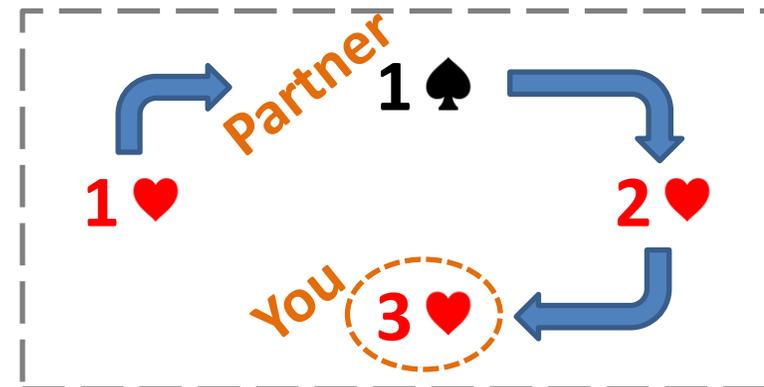
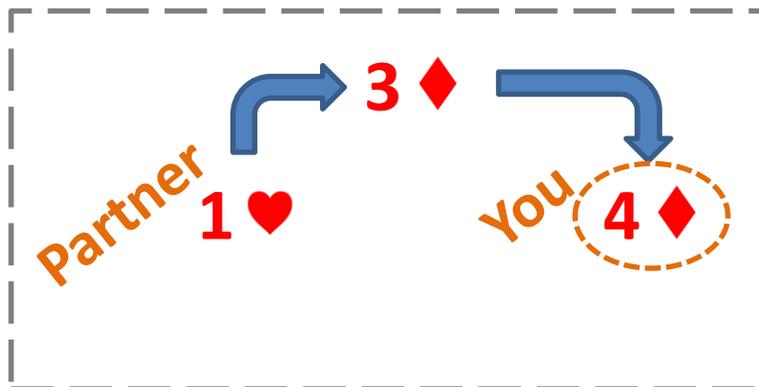
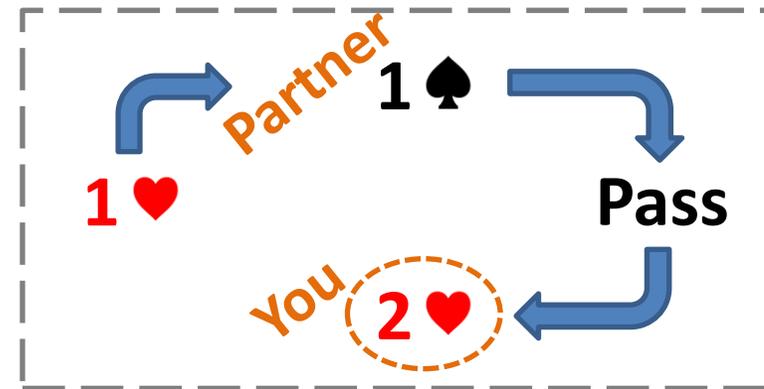
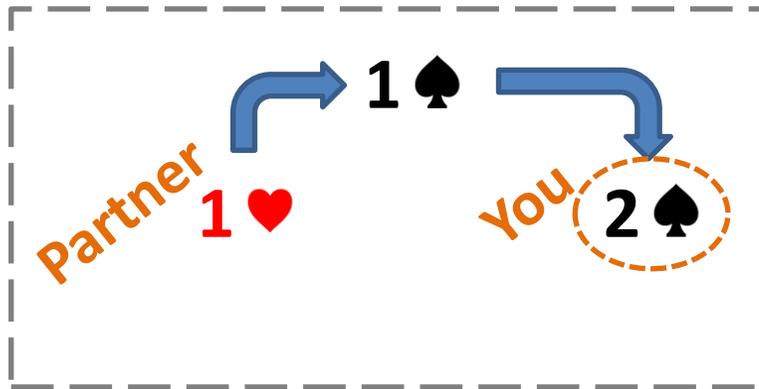


Phil Abrahamson

What is a Cue-bid raise ?

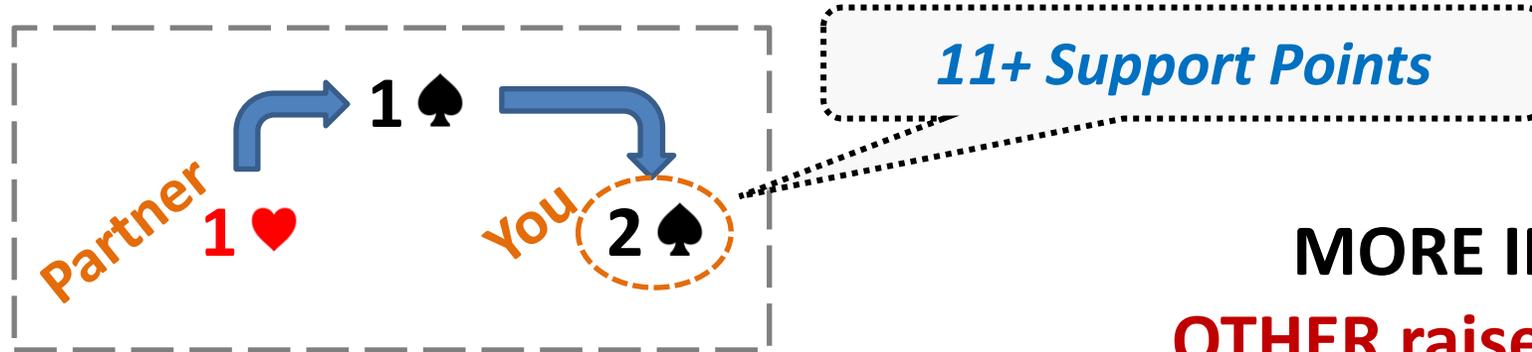
11+ Support Points

Bidding the Opponents' suit shows an **Invitational** (or better) raise of Partner's suit



Why do we LOVE Cue-bid raises ?

They're very descriptive and they often interfere with the Opp's bidding



MORE IMPORTANT: any OTHER raise is WEAKER than 11

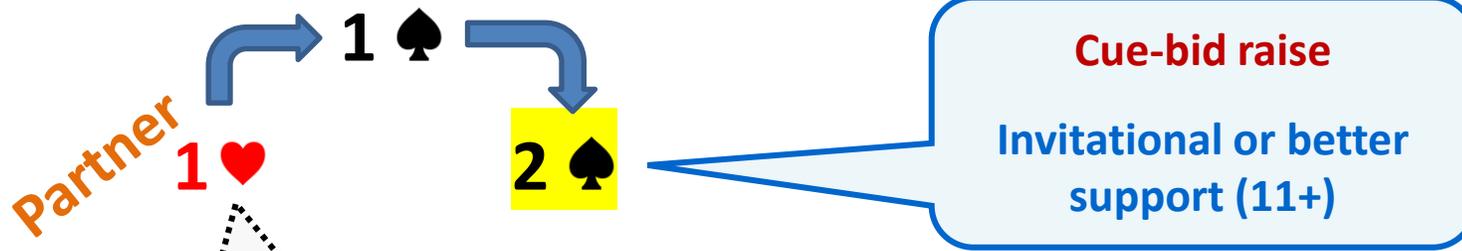
Other raises you could have made:

- 2♥ ... weaker than 11
- 3♥ ... weaker than 11 with 4+ ♥s and a singleton or void
- 4♥ ... weaker than 11 with 5+ ♥s and a singleton or void

These raises are extremely descriptive !!

They **LIMIT YOUR HAND**, so
Pard will know how high to bid

It's EASY to bid after a Cue-Bid raise



EASY for Opener

Opener will:

- Bid 3♥ with a minimum opener
- Bid 4♥ with a decent opener (14+)
- Explore slam with a very good hand

EASY for Responder

If Opener bids 3♥ ...

Invitational raise

♠	x x
♥	Q x x
♦	K J x x
♣	A x x x

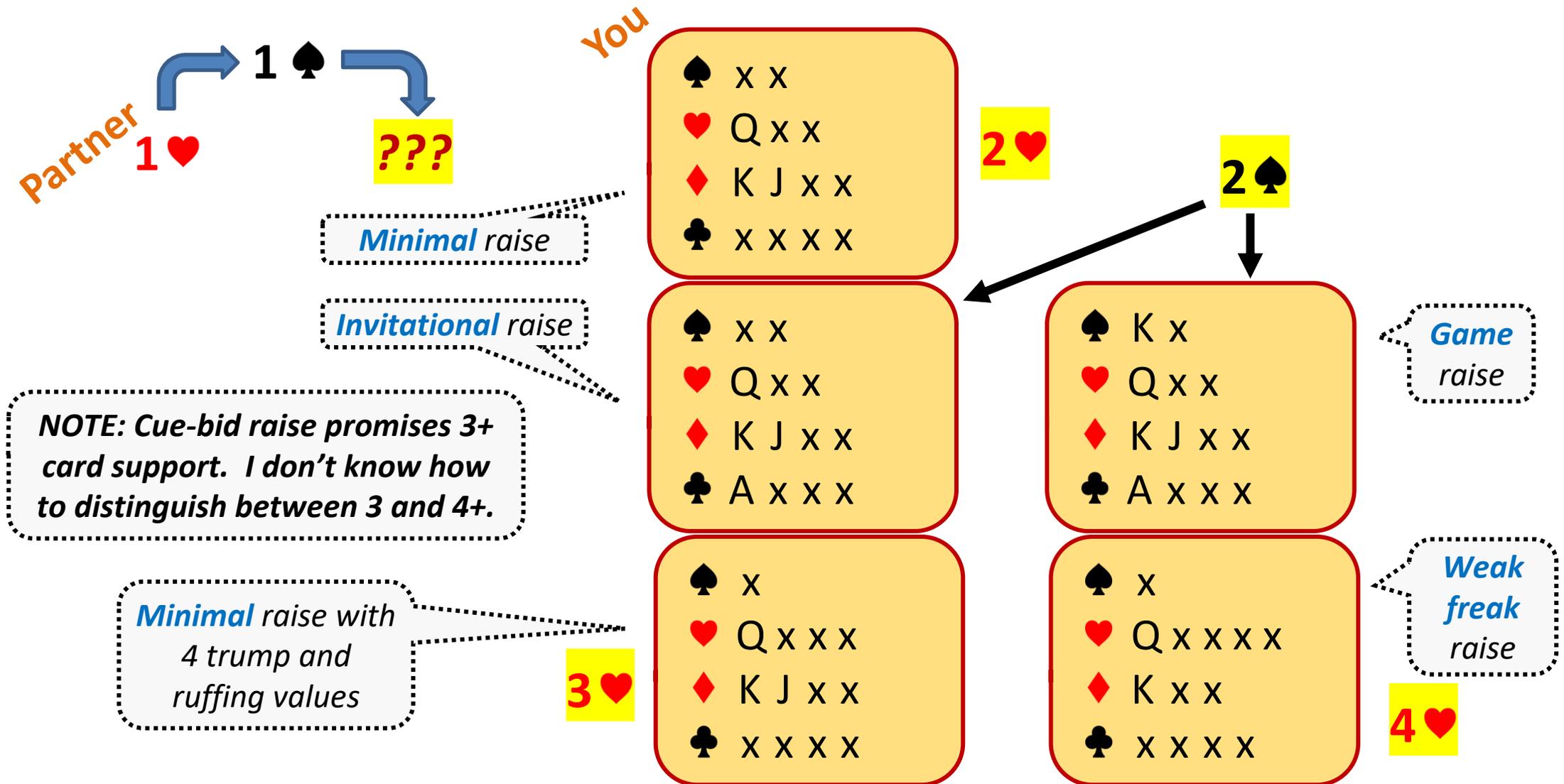
Responder: Pass

Game raise

♠	K x
♥	Q x x
♦	K J x x
♣	A x x x

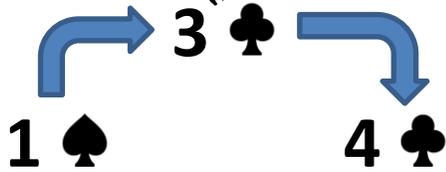
Responder: 4♥

Cue-bid raises let you tell Partner which hand you hold



Cue-Bid raise is VERY helpful when opponent pre-empts

Pesky opponent interferes !!!



**Game-forcing ♠ raise,
with interest in more than Game**

**This is why I LOVE
cue-bid raises**

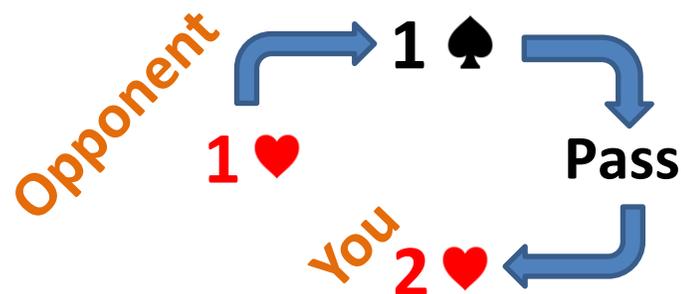
- 3♠ is a weak raise
- 4♠ shows game strength,
with little or no Slam interest

Opener might sign off in 4♠, or ...

- Bid 4NT (Key-Card ask)
- Make a control-bid (4♦ or 4♥)

*If Opener signs off, Responder might Pass or,
with a very good hand, explore Slam*

You can make a Cue-Bid raise of **Partner's Overcall**



Cue-bid raise
Invitational or better support (11+)

Partner can sign off in 2♠,
or invite game by bidding 3♠,
or bid 4♠,
or control-bid, or bid 4NT

Extremely descriptive !!

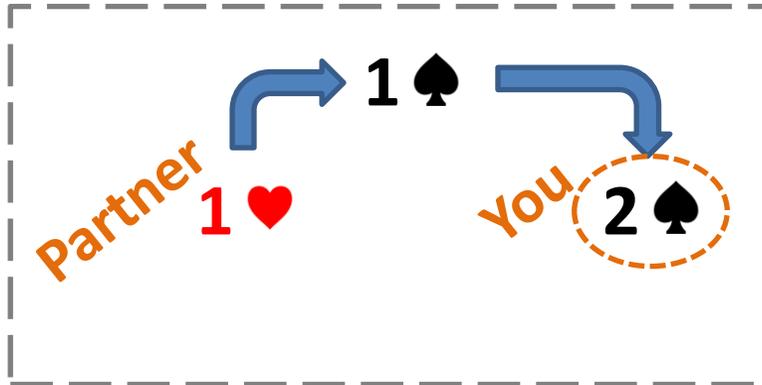
This means that ...

- 2♠ is a weak raise (<11 support points)
- 3♠ is a weak raise with 4+ ♠s with a singleton or void
- 4♠ is a **weak-freak** raise (5+ ♠s with a singleton or void)

RECAP – Cue-bid Raises

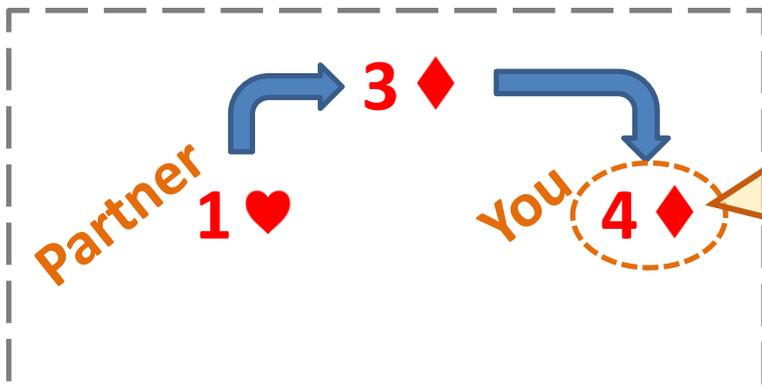
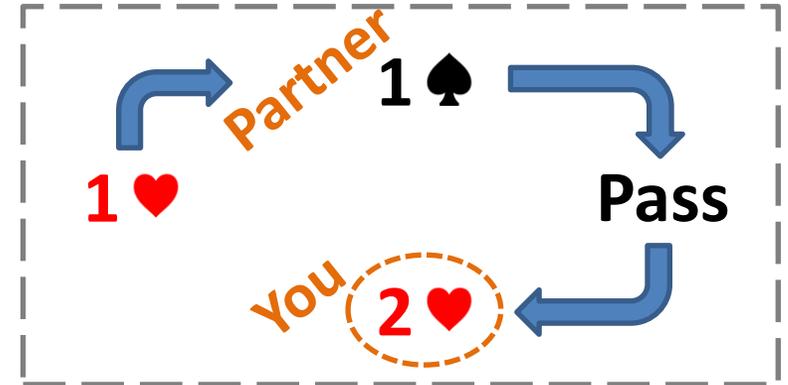
11+ Support Points

Bidding the Opponents' suit shows an **Invitational** (or better) raise of **Partner's** suit



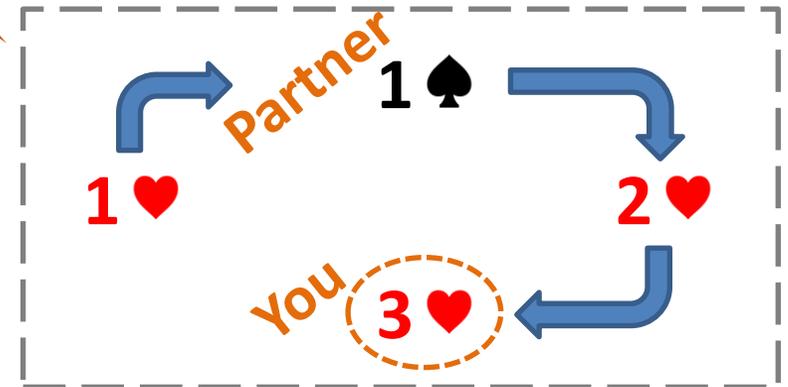
11+ Support points
(could be HUGE)

- Any *direct raise* is limited to <11

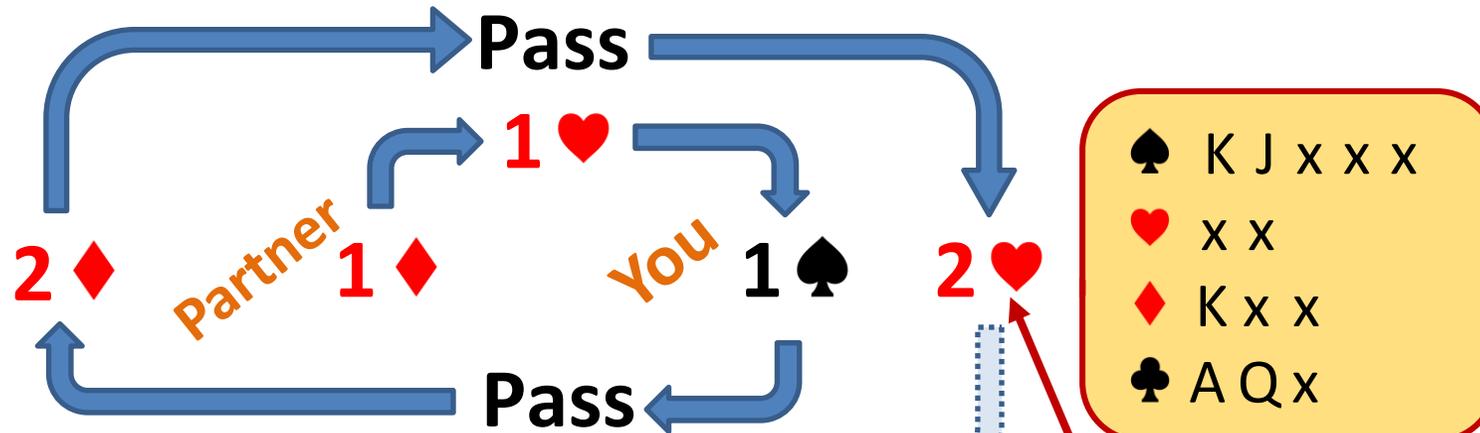


Interested in slam

- 4♥ = *game strength* (but no more)
- 3♥ = *competing* (below game strength)



PS ... sometimes, you bid the Opponents' suit for a different reason ... usually asking for a stopper / more info



Opener might ...

- Bid 2 NT to show a ♥ stopper
- Bid 2 ♠ to say "I have exactly 2 ♠s"

Clearly **FORCING**

- "Tell me more about your hand" ... "I'm not ready to stop!"

You promised 5 ♠s, so opener would have raised with 3

Even if you never discussed this, Pard will figure it out !!

REMEMBER: Cue-bid with an Invitational + raise (11+)

