

Bidding After Partner Raises

Major Suit Raises

If partner raises your 1♥ or 1♠ opening they show a fit (8+ cards) with your suit and

- 6-9 total points if they raise to the 2 level
- 10-11 (12) total points if they raise to the three level

Most partnerships use an immediate raise to game, such as 1♠ - pass -4♠, to show a weak hand with 5-card support. This has the effect of jamming the auction, making life difficult for the opponents. If the contract fails then the opponents surely have a making contract which you prevented them from reaching. This approach means that responder has to adopt a different course with support for opener's major and game-going values. Conventional bids (such as Jacoby 2NT) are used show strong supporting hands.

After a double raise opener should bid pass only if they have a bare minimum.

After a single raise opener adds points for any shortages and decides whether to

- pass, if as many as 9 points in partner's hand is insufficient for game
- bid game immediately, if as few as 6 points in partner's hand is enough
- make an invitational bid, asking partner to bid game with a suitable hand or settle for the three level with an unsuitable hand

A new suit by opener after a single raise (eg 1♠ - 2♠ - 3♦?) is often played as a trial bid, looking for help in that suit.

Minor Suit Raises

With a minor suit fit and thoughts of game you steer towards 3NT rather than an eleven trick game in the minor. A new suit by opener shows values in that suit and suggests no-trumps as a destination.



♠ A K 7 5 4
 ♥ K Q 8
 ♦ K Q 8
 ♣ Q 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
			?

Pass. You have a fine hand but partner doesn't. Partner shows a weak hand with 5-card support. They cannot have enough high cards to enable you to make slam.



♠ 6 5
 ♥ A K J 10
 ♦ A K 7 5 2
 ♣ K 10

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	?		2 ♥

Opener bids 2 ♥ to show values in that suit, not as an alternative trump suit. Responder has already denied a 4-card major by bidding 2 ♦. Over the 2 ♥ bid responder can bid no trumps with good holdings in the black suits or otherwise return to diamonds.



♠ A K 10 6 5
 ♥ K Q 10 9
 ♦ A 8 6
 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
	?		

Bid 4 ♠. You have 19 Total Points (16+3) and partner has 6-9.