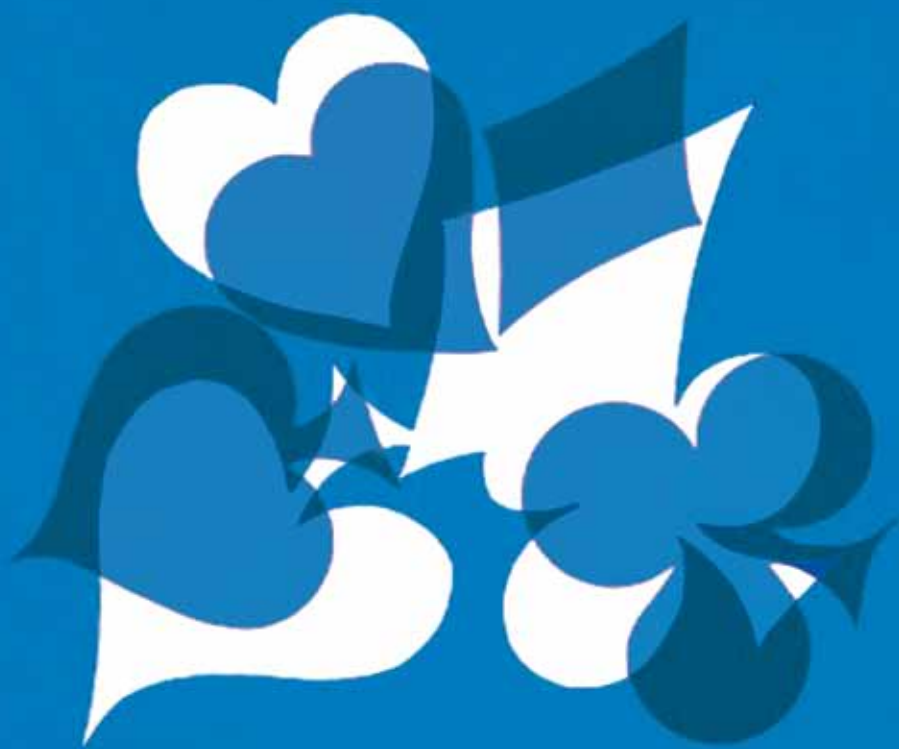


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

# BERGEN RAISES

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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# BERGEN RAISES

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## **Bergen Raises**

## Bergen Raises

Bergen Raises were invented by Marty Bergen as a result of a growing recognition among bridge players that more trumps, means more tricks. Bergen is bid by an unpassed Responder after partner has opened a major and right-hand opponent has passed. (Some players agree to play Bergen in other situations and that is discussed in the “Additional Notes” at the end of this section.) In general, hands with 9+ trumps play better since:

- Transportation is easier;
- Trumping losers is safer; and
- Pulling trumps is easier.

It is a very simple convention. After an opening bid of either 1♥ or 1♠, Responder will:

- Bid 3♣ to show 4+ trumps and 6-9 points;
- Bid 3♦ to show 4+ trumps, typically a balanced hand (otherwise responder might have made a Splinter Bid) and 10-12 points; or
- Bid 3♥ or 3♠, to show 4+ trumps and less than 6 points.



After Responder's raise, Opener has many options for his rebid.

- On hands that Opener feels that game is impossible he will simply bid his major suit at the three-level – 3♥ or 3♠.
- On hands that Opener has the values for game, Opener will bid game – 4♥ or 4♠.
- On hands that Opener is close to the values for game but has no game try available, Opener will bid game – 4♥ or 4♠.
- On hands that Opener feels that game is possible and there is a suit(s) between Responder's bid and the three-level of his major, he will make a game try. A game try can be made by bidding any suit other than trumps, as long as his bid is below the three-level of the trump suit.

When deciding whether or not game is possible Opener should consider:

- The number of trumps held by the partnership;
- His high card points;
- His distribution;
- Any competitive edge he might gain by bidding (or not bidding); and

- The location of his high card points. (*Remember, high card points concentrated in Opener's long suits are more valuable than high card points scattered throughout his hand.*)

Let's look at some hands opener might hold:

## Opener's Hand

1) ♠Q32 ♥AQ872 ♦AQ65 ♣3 – Opener bids 1♥

Responder bids 3♣ showing 4+ trumps and 6-9 points.

**Opener would rebid 3♦, a game try.** With a singleton, 14 HCPs and points concentrated in his long suits (hearts and diamonds), Opener will believe that game is possible.

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2) ♠Q32 ♥AQ872 ♦AQ65 ♣3 – Opener bids 1♥

Responder bids 3♦ showing 4+ trumps, typically balanced and 10-12 points.

**Opener would rebid 4♥, game.** With a singleton and 14 HCPs Opener will be very optimistic that his partnership holds the values to make game.

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## Bergen Raises

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the Bergen Raises convention.



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is an ABTA Master Bridge Teacher and cofounder of Whirlwind Bridge and Atlanta Junior Bridge. Her success at the bridge table culminated in her victory in the 2000 Baldwin Flight A North American Open Pairs with long-time bridge partner Kevin Collins. Patty and Kevin were married in 2006.