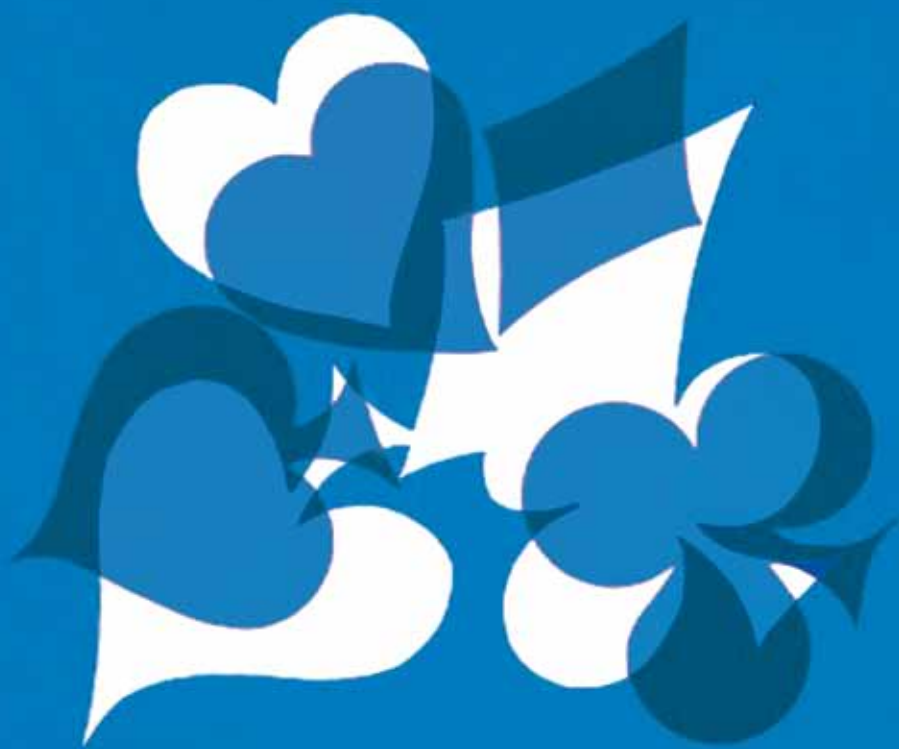


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

INVERTED MINORS

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Inverted Minors

Inverted Minors

Inverted Minors is a raise structure originally conceived in the Mid-1900's as part of the Kaplan-Sheinwold system. The bid was invented as a strategic tool serving two purposes. The purposes were:

- To escalate the bidding to the three-level with weak hands that contain long (5+ cards) minor suit fits, and
- To leave room to explore the possibility of game in NT when a partnership is close to the values for game and has a minor suit fit.

After an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦:

- A Preemptive Jump Raise, a raise to the three-level, by responder shows five or more cards in the minor suit opened and less than 6 HCPs, or
- An Inverted Minor Raise, a raise to the two-level by responder, shows five or more cards in the minor suit opened, no four-card or longer major suit and 10+HCPs, or
- A bid of 1NT, shows 6-9 points and no four-card or longer major, and
- No other bids are changed.

The strategy behind adopting the preemptive jump raise with a weak hand is to make it more difficult for the opponents to overcall and find a major suit fit. It is suspected, since opener has at most four cards in either major, that the opponents have a major suit fit. It is likely, since responder has less than 6 HCPs, that the opponents will have the values to overcall.

The innovation of using the two-level raise in opener's minor suit to show 10+ HCPs was created for a different reason. The most likely (profitable) game, when you have a minor fit and no possibility of a major fit, is notrump. Before adopting Inverted Minors, partnerships had difficulty deciding whether or not bidding a notrump game was feasible. Using a two-level raise to show invitational (10-12 HCPs) or stronger (13+ HCPs) values allows partnerships room to explore for a notrump game.

After the Preemptive Jump Raise of 3♣ or 3♦, opener will almost always pass. Responder has shown a very preemptive hand and opener, even with a 2NT rebid, should not expect that 3NT would make. The only time opener should bid after a Preemptive Jump Raise is with a strong, distributional hand that feels game in the minor is possible.

If opener bids a new suit after a preemptive jump raise, it is a cuebid showing a control in the suit that is bid and a hand interested in playing game in the minor suit. Opener is describing a hand that has interest in playing a **minor game**. Though it may develop that opener might had interest in bidding slam that occurrence is rare. The partnership's immediate interpretation should be that they are exploring for game in their minor suit.

Opener's hand after a 1♦ – 3♦ auction would need to be something like this to make a second bid:

♠KQ43 ♥3 ♦AK865 ♣AQ2

Primary cards (Aces and Kings), a singleton, five trumps (for a total of at least 10 trumps). Opener can envision game is possible if responder held as little as this:

♠A5 ♥975 ♦97432 ♣J53

OR

Something like this to make a second bid:

♠AK43 ♥3 ♦AJ865 ♣KQ2

Primary cards (Aces and Kings), a singleton, five trumps (for a total of at least 10 trumps). Opener can

envision game is possible if responder held as little as this:

♠75 ♥975 ♦K9743 ♣J73

After an Inverted Minor Raise at the two-level showing 10+ points, opener's rebid will show the strength and nature of his hand. A rebid by opener of:

- 2NT shows a minimum (12-13 HCPs), balanced hand, or
- 3♣ or 3♦ (depending on what suit was opened) shows a minimum, unbalanced hand (a hand with a singleton, void or five cards or more in the minor suit opened), or
- A new suit at the minimum level (a cuebid) shows the values for game (a good 14 point or any 15+ HCPs) hand. This cuebid is not to be confused with Cuebidding Controls. Opener is not promising an Ace, King, Singleton or Void, opener is describing a stopper (high cards) in a suit with interest in playing game. Responder should expect that opener is trying to discover whether or not playing a **notrump** game is feasible. Though it may develop that opener had interest in bidding slam in their minor suit, the partnership's immediate interpretation

should be that they are exploring for game in notrump.

When both opener and responder have the minimum values for their respective bids, the auctions are simple. You will either play 2NT or three of your minor suit (3♣ or 3♦)

After opener's rebid of 2NT showing a minimum balanced hand, responder will:

- Pass with a balanced minimum hand, or
- Rebid 3♣ or 3♦ with an unbalanced minimum hand, or
- Rebid 3NT with a balanced game forcing hand and a stopper in the unbid suits, or
- Rebid a new suit with a game forcing hand and a stopper in the suit responder bids.

After opener's rebid 3♣ or 3♦ showing an unbalanced minimum hand, responder will:

- Pass with a minimum hand, or
- Rebid 3NT with a balanced game forcing hand and a stopper in the unbid suits, or
- Rebid a new suit with a game forcing hand and a stopper in the suit responder bids.

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Inverted Minors

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 Inverted Minors convention.



PATTY TUCKER (Dunwoody, Georgia) 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.