

Good bidding is the result of clear partnership agreements and bidding according to your agreements. Trust your partner and listen to her.

# THE BONES OF BIDDING

## Responding to 1 of a major with a fit

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS ON A QUEST TO FIND A MAJOR SUIT FIT.

1. When partner opens 1 of a major, all you need for a fit is 3 of that suit.

2. With a fit, you can add more points for your distribution

responder's void	add 5 points
responder's singleton	add 3 points
responder's doubleton	add 1 point

3. Then evaluate the category of your strength

0 to 5 points	Sub-minimum
6 to 9 points	Minimum
10 to 12 points	Invitational
13 plus points	Game forcing

4. Do you have SUB-MINIMUM strength (0 – 5 points) ?

Guess what? You get to pass!! But you could, perhaps, maybe, maybe get to raise on your next bid!?

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold

963 KJ87 1096 743

Pass. Later you can bid 2 spades if the auction allows.

5. Or, do you have MINIMUM strength (6 – 10- points) ?

So, just give a simple raise to the 2 level. Partner says 1 of the major and you say 2 of the major.

That's easy. So why do some people make it harder? Remember, all that's important is showing that fit!! Ignore the other nice things about your hand.

Partner opens 1 heart and you hold

KQJ63 987 109 743

Respond 2 hearts. You have found a fit. The fit is hearts, so bid 2 hearts. Your spades will be useful to partner for developing tricks, but you only get 1 bid with a minimum hand, and that bid is 2 hearts.

6. Did you get lucky and find a fit with invitational strength (10+ – 12) ?  
Then you get to distinguish between:

- A LIMIT RAISE 10+ to 12 points and FOUR trump, or
- A DELAYED RAISE 10+ to 12 points and THREE trump

## LIMIT RAISE

10+ to 12 points and four trump

Jump-raise to 3 of partner's suit. Ex: 1heart – pass – 3 hearts

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold

KQ63 KJ87 J96 74

Bid 3 spades, inviting partner with  
your 4 trump and 11 points.

## DELAYED RAISE

10+ to 12 points and three trump

**DO NOT** jump-raise to 3 of partner's suit.  
Instead, bid a new suit **AND THEN JUMP RAISE.**

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold

KQ6 KJ87 63 Q974

Bid 2 clubs. If partner next bids 2 diamonds, jump raise to 3 spades.

But what if partner does not bid 2 diamonds?

If he bids 2 spades, bid 3 spades.

If he bids 2NT, bid 3 spades.

If he should happen to bid 2 hearts, jump to 4 hearts. You have a double fit.

7. With 13 points and up you must make sure game is reached.

You either have to respond 2NT (Jacoby 2NT, to be discussed later) if you have 4-card support; or, if you have only 3 trump, start by bidding a new suit and then continue on in an appropriate way, making sure game is reached.

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold

KQ64 KJ87 63 A974

Bid 2 NT. What to do after this will be discussed in another lesson.

Partner opens 1 spade and you hold

KQ6 KJ87 K3 AK743

Bid 2 clubs. Over partner's next bid, you may bid 4 NT to check Ace's.

8. An immediate jump to 4 of the major shows 5 card trump support and 5 to 9 points.

Partner opens 1 heart and you hold

4 J9874 93 A874

Jump immediately to 4 hearts. Partner might make it. But if not, chances are good that your pre-empt disrupted the opponents, and they may have done better if you had given them a chance to communicate.