



BRIDGE

MAJOR SUIT RAISES & SLAM TRIES

Wizard of Oz Bidding System

Melih Ozdil

Wizard of Oz Bridge System by Melih Ozdil

MAJOR SUIT RAISES

Developments After Major Support

While supporting partner's major, we count fit points and show our hand accordingly. Fit points are the result of considering shortness when we have a fit. Three tricks will be lost with mutual holding of xxx-xxx, two tricks with xx-xxx, one trick with x-xxx where we can ruff immediately with a void in one hand. Therefore shortness is as important as honor cards in trump contracts. In order to be able to show this value, shortness is evaluated in proportion to trump length as fit points in addition to honor points. While evaluating shortness for direct support, singleton honors are not considered in the point count except the aces. Obviously singleton ace is not as valuable as it is in the long suits.

Counting fit points

- * With 3-card fit in opening major

Void : 3 FP (fit points)
Singleton : 2 FP
Doubleton : 1 FP

- * With 4-card fit in opening major

Void : 5 FP
Singleton : 3 FP
Doubleton : 1 FP

With less than 4 HCP in the trump suit, 1 FP can be added for a small honor or a fifth trump. The classic method of calculating fit points shown above cannot be used on its own. The sum of honor and fit points need to be shown when supporting partner's suit.

Hand evaluation

After responder's raise, opener must evaluate his hand with an unbalanced distribution, considering the honor quality outside trump suit and count the fit points but discount one or two points for the singleton honors from the total HCP.

Opener evaluates the shortness depending on partner's three or four cards support and adds 1 point for each he holds above five trumps then announces the 4M contract with total 27 FP. In this application, the game contract that is reached without investigating the holding of the short suits due to the lack of room is considered a good choice even though it depends on the honors of the short suits in the other side. Whereas, the slam contracts that are to be played with ~35 fit points definitely requires this investigation after agreeing on a trump suit.

SINGLE RAISE

A raise to 2-level in the opening major shows 6-10 FP and at least 3-card fit.

S	W	N	E	AT94	KT5	Q82	QJ3
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	QT5	762	J76	9652
				84	K93	KT874	A84
				9732	K954	Q6	T75

After single raise, opener evaluates his hand and bids game with 20 FP or makes a game-try with 17-19 FP.

KJ8	AT6	A2	----	S	W	N	E
AQ973	AQT75	AQT763	AK9753	1♥	Pass	3♣*	Pass
764	4	KJ95	KJ85	?			
A5	KJ83	7	AT4				
14 HCP	17 FP	19 FP	21 FP	3♣	: Bergen raise		

Holding A, KQ, QJ, Qxx, Qx or Jxx in a suit reduces the hand value. Supported by high honors and spot cards increases the value of low honors. Long suit honors with spot cards as well as the presence of low honors in the trump suit increases the hand value.

▪ Opener's Rebids After Single Raise

- * 3M : To play generally with six trumps and weak unbalanced hand.
- * 2NT : Game try with a balanced hand and 16-18 HCP
"With a minimum hand, responder passes or returns to 3M if he doesn't have 3-3-3-4. He bids either 3NT or 4M with a maximum"
- * New suit : Game try with an unbalanced hand and long suit
"Responder accepts the game try with a suitable hand"
- * 3NT : To play with a balanced hand and 19 HCP.
"Responder returns to 4M if he doesn't have 4-3-3-3"
- * 4X : Slam try with a very good two suited (5-5) hand and Ax(x) in the doubleton!
"Responder accepts the slam try with 4-card fit for the second suit and two cover cards since the hands with 4-card fit to the opening major would have used Bergen raises.

KJ65	KJ4	K7	A5	S	W	N	E
AJT83	AQ972	AJ8654	AKT94	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
74	K5	Q752	AQJ94	?			
AK	A93	3	7				
2♠	2NT	3♥	4♦				
AQ753	KJ874	AQ862	AKJ86	S	W	N	E
Q642	AJ53	AQ5	AQT97	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
KQ	6	J93	5	?			
Q5	KQJ	AQ	AT				
Pass	3♥	3NT	4♥				

S	W	N	E	Q94	962	T74	AJ5
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	A62	74	KJ2	J964
2NT	Pass	?		9743	KT74	K95	KT72
				865	K843	Q753	63
				Pass	3♠	3NT	4♠

S	W	N	E	8642	KJ2	JT3
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	A53	QT6	QT8
3♣	Pass	?		KQ5	9743	96542
				764	J95	A6
				3♦	3♥	4♥

LIMIT RAISE

Raising opening major directly to 3-level shows 4-card support and 11-12 FP.

* It requires a good 10-11 HCP with 4-2-3-4 distribution

S	W	N	E			
1♥	Pass	3♥		KQ8	AKJ7	A5
				J964	Q862	QJ94
				A975	53	KJ2
				63	T96	8643

* 7-9 HCP is sufficient with 4-1-4-4 or 4-3-1-5 distributions

S	W	N	E			
1♠	Pass	3♠		J964	KT82	QT86
				8762	6	K5
				3	AT973	A9753
				AKT9	T74	82

▪ Developments

Opener passes with a weak opening or reevaluates his hand and bids game with 15+ FP. He also bids game with balanced 18-19 HCP that is not enough for slam. It has to be noted that slam requires 33 HCP or at least 34 FP with a very good honor quality.

K5	Q6	AT7	AK	S	W	N	E
Q8763	AJ642	AJ864	KJ864	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
AJ	Q7643	9	QJ3	?			
QT72	K	QJ84	KQ				
Pass	Pass	4♥	4♥				
Q9652	KQJ53	JT973	QT864	S	W	N	E
Q73	QJ	AKT4	3	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
AK	82	KT8	AQ972	?			
J52	K764	6	KT				
Pass	Pass	4♠	4♠				

Opener with a very strong unbalanced hand can search for slam by showing his shortness or asking responder's shortness. It is very important to remember that responder with a singleton would have used limit raise with 8-9 HCP and unbalanced forcing raise if he had more. Responder's limit raise without a singleton should be with ~11 HCP.

- * After 1♥ opening and over 3♥ response, 3NT shows spade, 4♣ shows club and 4♦ shows diamond shortness respectively. Opener shows shortness only if he has enough strength for slam against responder's suitable hands.
- * After 1♠ opening and over 3♠ response, 4♣ shows club and 4♦ shows diamond and 4♥ shows heart shortness respectively. Opener shows shortness only if he has enough strength for slam against responder's suitable hands.
- * After 1♥ opening and over 3♥ response, 3♠ is a relay asking responder's shortness; 3NT denies shortness, 4♣ shows club, 4♦ shows diamond and 4♥ shows spade shortness respectively. (No-name responses)
- * After 1♠ opening and over 3♠ response, 3NT is a relay asking responder's shortness; 4♠ denies shortness, 4♣ shows club, 4♦ shows diamond and 4♥ shows heart shortness respectively.
- * After responses to shortness asking relays, all bids are showing and looking for controls.

A4 AKT752 A863 7	5 AQT83 AK64 AJ7	KJ95 AQT64 AK3 2		S 1♥ ?	W Pass	N 3♥	E Pass
3♠	3NT	4♣					
A952 AQ9864 3 AJ	4 AKT73 KJ2 AQT8	AQ5 AJT62 AQ73 6	AK8 AQJ93 5 KJ74	S 1♥ ?	W Pass	N 3♥	E Pass
3♠	3NT	4♣	4♦				
KQT85 AJ642 A3 A	AKJ94 QJ3 2 AQT7	AQ9642 5 AQ83 K7	KT9762 AQJ3 7 AK	S 1♠ ?	W Pass	N 3♠	E Pass
3NT	4♦	4♥	4NT				
S 1♥ 3♠	W Pass Pass	N 3♥ ?	E Pass	53 AJ72 KJ94 Q75 3NT	QT8 J7542 A974 6 4♣	9754 K973 5 AJT2 4♦	7 QJ83 AT842 JT6 4♥
S 1♠ 4♦	W Pass Pass	N 3♠ ?	E Pass	J962 K3 AJ84 QT7 4♥	Q853 92 AK96 Q85 4♠	Q864 AKQT 9764 72 4NT	K974 KJ2 863 A75 5♥
S 1♠ 3NT	W Pass Pass	N 3♠ ?	E Pass	KJ94 AT73 J875 6 4♣	KJ82 KT94 5 JT73 4♦	T875 3 AQJ4 Q852 4♥	K852 A4 QJ93 T64 4♠

GAMBLING RAISE

Raise of the opening major to 4-level shows 5-8 HCP and an unbalanced distribution with 5-card fit normally. One working honor is sufficient if the distribution is 5-5.

S 1♠	W Pass	N 4♠	E Pass	T97652 K4 T963 7	T963 JT8 ---- AJT752	T9743 4 AJ862 75
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SPLINTER

Splinter bids show 13+ HCP with at least 4-card support, shortness in the suit bid and denying a good 5-card side suit. Over 1♥ opening, 3NT response is used to show spade shortness.

S	W	N	E			
1♥	Pass	?		4	AKQ	KJ85
				J8642	K985	QT73
				AKT	J9753	A
				AT8	6	A986
				3NT	4♣	4♦

S	W	N	E			
1♠	Pass	?		JT96	K642	KQ75
				AQJ5	Q863	4
				KQ73	J	KJ86
				9	AKQ5	AJ62
				4♣	4♦	4♥

Hand evaluation

After learning responder's 4+ card fit and shortness, opener evaluates his hand based on his holding in partner's short suit as below:

- Very good holding : xxx, xxxx
- Good holding : Axx, Axxx
- Medium holding : AJx, AJxx
- Bad holding : Qxx, QJxx
- Very bad holding : AQx, AQxx
- Extremely bad holding : Kxx, KJxx, KQxx, AKx, AKJ

▪ Developments

- * Opener returns to the original major with a bad holding.
- * Uses control cue-bids under 4NT with a medium holding and suitability for the shortness.
- * Uses 4NT "RKCB" or shows the number of key cards at 5-level (as if partner asked key cards with 4NT) with a good holding in responder's shortness. This is done if opener thinks that responder can decide on the contract more easily by knowing the key cards in the opening hand.

Q52	KJ6	753	A85	S	W	N	E
KQT64	K8642	KQT84	KQJ93	1♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Q7	AJ	4	A94	?			
AJ5	J63	AKQ2	92				
4♣	4♥	4NT	5♣				

K2	Q4	A	A5	S	W	N	E
KJT86	AJ753	KQT62	QJ963	1♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
Q83	Q82	KT3	AK6	?			
AJ7	KQ7	8654	974				
4♦	4♥	4NT	5♠				

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UNBALANCED FORCING RAISES

3♠ over 1♥ and 3NT over 1♠ openings are used to show 10-12 HCP with 4-card support and shortness in an undisclosed suit.

S	W	N	E			
1♥	Pass	3♠		5	QJ94	AQ74
				KJT6	AJ63	KQ95
				AQ4	7	T863
				98653	QJ75	8

S	W	N	E			
1♠	Pass	3NT		QJ96	Q752	KJ73
				5	KT86	QJ65
				A9653	3	AJ84
				K82	AQ94	6

If opener does not have enough strength for slam, he just bids the game. He can ask responder's shortness with 3NT over 3♠, 4♣ over 3NT and enough strength for possible slam. Responder uses No-name application to show his shortness.

NO-NAME APPLICATION

Asking for shortness with a usable first step after opener's or responder's natural or conventional jump raises that shows limited strength and four card support is a classical application for slam try. Responding to this asking bid with "low, medium, high" application can create problems even if it is a simple system that can be remembered. When another suit is bid in order to show the shortness, opponents can inform their partner by doubling or passing and their chances for finding the right lead increases. On the other hand by using the "No-name" method named by me, you can resolve this problem by showing shortness with the suit itself.

If partner doesn't promise shortness, first four steps are used. Over 3♠ asking bid when heart is the trump suit, 3NT shows "No" shortness and 4♥ shows spade shortness. Over 3NT asking bid when spade is the trump suit, 4♠ shows "No" shortness. If partner promises shortness, first three steps are used to show the shortness. If the suit with the shortness is not available to bid under 4M, then it is shown by returning to the trump suit.

Application of "No-name" After Possible Developments for Spade and Heart Openings

* If Responder uses Bergen or limit raises with 11-12 FP:

S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	?	

- 3NT : "No" shortness
- 4♣ : Club shortness
- 4♦ : Diamond shortness
- 4♥ : Spade shortness

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	?	

- 4m : Shows shortness
- 4♥ : Heart shortness
- 4♠ : "No" shortness

* If responder applies unbalanced forcing raise:

S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	?	

- 4♣ : Club shortness
 - 4♦ : Diamond shortness
 - 4♥ : Spade shortness

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	?	

- 4♦ : Diamond shortness
 - 4♥ : Heart shortness
 - 4♠ : Club shortness

* If opener raises responder's major suit to three level:

S	W	N	E
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠*	Pass
?			

- 3NT : "No" shortness
 - 4♣ : Good clubs and no shortness
 - 4♦ : Diamond shortness
 - 4♥ : Spade shortness

S	W	N	E
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠*	Pass
?			

- 3NT : "No" shortness
 - 4♣ : Club shortness
 - 4♦ : Good diamonds and no shortness
 - 4♥ : Spade shortness

S	W	N	E
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT*	Pass
?			

- 4♣ : Club shortness
 - 4♦ : Good diamonds and no shortness
 - 4♥ : Heart shortness
 - 4♠ : "No" shortness

S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT*	Pass
?			

- 4m : Shortness in the minor
 - 4♥ : Good hearts and "No" shortness
 - 3♠ : "No" shortness

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REVERSE DRURY

Opening in the third seat with minimum and just enough strength for one level overcall after two passes, provides benefits such as lead directing, competing or blocking the opponents. In addition, opening with advantageous vulnerability at third seat is possible even with weaker hands. It is likely for the fourth seated player to open with a good quality major suit and 10-12 HCP.

Over third or fourth seated openings, responder's new suit or 1NT bids without fit doesn't create issues but raise of the opening major to three or four levels may result in losses. Drury convention developed by **Douglas Drury** solves this issue.

Over major openings at third or fourth seat, the responder with three card fit and at least 10 FP uses conventional 2♣ response. Opener rebids 2♦ with weak opening and the side stops at two level after responder's return to 2M. In this case, opener's 2♦ rebid to show weakness creates advantage to the opponents. As an example opponent can interfere with a double or bidding his suit over weakness showing 2♦ rebid. The application named as "Reverse Drury" by **George Rosenkranz** that shows weakness with rebid of the opening major solves this issue partially.

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1NT : 6-11 HCP and no fit. - 2♣ : Reverse Drury with 10+ FP and 3-card fit. - 2♦ : Normally 6-card suit with ~9 HCP. - 2♥ : Normally 6-card suit with ~9 HCP. - 2♠ : Fit with 6-10 FP. - 2NT : 11+ FP and 4-card fit. - 3♣ : Good 6-card suit with ~9HCP and without fit. - 3♦ : Good 5-card diamond suit with 4-card fit. - 3♥ : Good 5-card heart suit with 4-card fit. - 3♠ : Constructive raise, that shows ~6 HCP, 4-card fit and a shortness. - 4X : Shortness in the suit with long spade support, very unbalanced hand and good honors. 			
52	J83	4	JT75
AJ86	AT964	AT62	AQ8
KT73	4	KJ9763	73
QJ7	KT75	J5	KT74
1NT	2♣	2♦	2NT
74	Q963	KT85	T9653
AQ3	74	J82	AT7
95	AQJ85	Q9754	5
KJT976	T2	6	AJ84
3♣	3♦	3♠	4♦
KQT75	5	976	----
AT86	Q962	JT83	JT754
74	AQT93	4	AT963
T3	T97	AT753	KJT
2♠	3♦	3♥	3♠

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	?	

- 2 ♦ : Asking for clarification with a normal opening but not sure about game contract.
 - 2 ♥ : Natural but may have minimum opening.
 - 2 ♠ : Sign-off.
 - 2NT : Game forcing with balanced hand.
 - 3m : Game/slam try with at least 5-4 distribution.
 - 3 ♥ : Slam try with at least 5-4 majors.
 - 3 ♠ : Slam try asking for trump honors.
 - 3NT : Slam try with shortness in hearts.
 - 4m : Slam try with shortness in the minor.
 - 4 ♠ : To play.

S	W	N	E	AJT52	Q9653	KT763	Q9762
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	KT4	AT82	AQ6	AJ3
2 ♣	Pass	?		73	4	J4	AQ
				AJ6	AQ6	Q85	KT4
				2 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠	2NT

S	W	N	E	AQ982	AQJ64	K87542	AKJ853
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass	5	K8653	AKJ8	6
2 ♣	Pass	?		KQ3	A7	7	KT5
				Q754	A	AK	AQ7
				3 ♣	3 ♥	3 ♠	3NT

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	?	

- 2 ♦ : Asking for clarification with a normal opening but not sure about game contract.
 - 2 ♥ : Sign-off.
 - 2 ♠ : Game/slam try with at least 5-4 distribution.
 - 2NT : Game forcing with balanced hand.
 - 3m : Game/slam try with at least 5-4 distribution.
 - 3 ♥ : Slam try asking for trump honors.
 - 3 ♠ : Slam try with shortness in spades.
 - 4m : Slam try with shortness in the minor.
 - 4 ♥ : To play.

S	W	N	E	K4	Q7	AKJ3	AJ3
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass	KJ863	K9862	Q8652	AQ862
2 ♣	Pass	?		975	AQ53	K74	KJ
				AK8	84	A	Q97
				2 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠	2NT

S	W	N	E	AQ	K6	KQ6	7
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass	KQ986	AQT75	Q9742	AKT75
2 ♣	Pass	?		7	K8652	AKQ7	AQ92
				AQT65	4	A	AQ8
				3 ♣	3 ♦	3 ♥	3 ♠

S	W	N	E			
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	AQ9	AK8	AJT
2♣	Pass	?		AKT752	AQJ96	AQ862
				KJ8	4	K964
				5	KQ93	7
				4♣	4♦	4♥

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	?	

- 3X : Game/slam try with at least 5-4 distribution.
- 3♠ : To play.
- 3NT : Shows shortness in the unbid major.
- 4m : Slam try with shortness in the minor and a very strong hand.
- 4♠ : To play.

S	W	N	E				
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	KJ952	AKJ76	AQJ92	AQT863
2NT	Pass	?		64	953	4	AJT
				AT83	Q72	AKQ3	AQ7
				AT	64	KT6	4
				3♦	3♠	3NT	4♣

S	W	N	E				
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass	K2	K94	JT7	AQ93
2NT	Pass	?		AQ964	AK963	AJT62	AQ864
				A3	Q872	5	K6
				AJ85	5	K864	K5
				3♣	3♦	3♥	3♠

S	W	N	E	
Pass	Pass	1M	Pass	
2♣	Pass	3M	Pass	(Trump honor asking bid)
?				

- First step shows no honor
- Second step shows the jack
- Third step shows one honor (Q or higher)
- Fourth step shows one honor with the jack
- Fifth step shows two honors

If responder jumps that shows good 5-card suit and support to the opening major, opener's first step rebid excluding the trump suit is asking for shortness. No-name method with the following first three steps are used as responses to this asking bid.

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

- 3♠ : No shortness
- 3NT : Heart shortness
- 4♣ : Club shortness

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BERGEN RAISES

CONSTRUCTIVE RAISE

3♣ response over 1♥ opening and 3♦ response over 1♠ opening shows (6+-10) FP with 4-card support. At least 4-4-3-2 distribution is required for these raises. However, it is also possible to apply constructive raise with 4-3-3-3 distribution and useful honours.

S	W	N	E				
1♥	Pass	3♣		K84	Q6	Q754	AT8
				J963	9753	A852	QJ94
				7	QT2	Q73	652
				JT852	AJ74	Q5	T97
S	W	N	E				
1♠	Pass	3♦		J974	T872	Q962	T975
				AK8	4	83	A9642
				962	AT8	KJ4	T3
				T73	J9853	JT75	74

▪ Developments

- * Opener's return to the opening major at 3 or 4-level is the contract choice.
- * The next step is used as min/max range asking bid by the opener. Responder bids 3M with minimum and 4M with maximum.
- * New suit rebid at 4-level is slam try showing at least 5-5 distribution. Opener should have sufficient strength for slam against responder's A+Q, K+K or K+Q holdings in these two suits. If responder has two cover cards in these suits, he bids the slam directly. If he has one cover card and an outside ace, he cue-bid to show the outside ace. If he has two cover cards and an outside ace, he uses 4NT RKCB for the grand slam.

AJ5	AQ94	AT	Q5	S	W	N	E
KQT72	KT9753	AKJ84	AJT93	1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
83	A	5	AKT42	?			
AQ2	AQ	AQJ93	6				
3♦	3♠	4♣	4♥				
AQJ76	AQT94	AQJ92	KQT95	S	W	N	E
94	3	4	AQJ93	1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
K3	A6	AQJ83	AQ	?			
AJ52	AKJ72	AT	2				
3♥	4♣	4♦	4♥				
S	W	N	E				
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass	63	753	T73	K2
3♠	Pass	?		J975	Q762	T854	Q8753
				8652	A4	KQ86	T964
				AK4	9765	Q2	85
				4♣	4♦	4♥	6♥

S	W	N	E				
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass	Q875	Q753	T753	KT62
4♣	Pass	?		J72	AQ62	KQ54	T873
				A975	T4	Q6	T94
				643	953	862	Q5
				4♦	4♥	4♠	6♠

LIMIT RAISE

3♦ response to 1♥ and 3♥ response to 1♠ openings show 11-12 FP and 4-card support.

S	W	N	E				
1♥	Pass	3♦		J64	AK84	AJ85	A96
				QJ83	9652	KT73	JT83
				A9762	K83	4	AQ5
				5	75	9862	764

S	W	N	E				
1♠	Pass	3♥		KJ93	T875	Q863	J964
				Q2	4	A92	K5
				975	QT62	AJ7	AJ963
				KQ74	AQ73	854	76

▪ **Developments**

- * Returning to the opening major at the three or 4-level is the contract choice.
- * There are two options for a slam try: Showing your shortness, or asking for partner's shortness.
- * After 1♥ opening and over 3♦ response, 3NT shows spade, 4♣ shows club and 4♦ shows diamond shortness. Opener only shows shortness, if he has enough strength for slam against responder's suitable hands.
- * After 1♠ opening and over 3♥ response, 4♣ shows club, 4♦ shows diamond and 4♥ shows heart shortness. Opener only shows shortness, if he has enough strength for slam against responder's suitable hands.
- * After 1♥ opening and over 3♦ response, 3♠ is a relay and asks if responder has shortness. Responder's 3NT denies shortness, 4♣ shows club, 4♦ shows diamond and 4♥ shows spade shortness as No-name application.
- * After 1♠ opening and over 3♥ response, 3NT is a relay and asks if responder has shortness. Responder's 4♣ shows club, 4♦ shows diamond, 4♥ shows heart and 4♠ denies shortness
- * After the "Shortness asking relay" all bids excluding the opening major are showing or looking for controls and 4NT is RKCB.

A952	4	AQ5	AK8	S	W	N	E
AQ9864	AKT3	AJT62	AQJ93	1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
3	KJ2	AQ73	5	?			
AJ	AQT8	6	KJ74				
3♠	3NT	4♣	4♦				

KJ862	AKJ863	AQ862	AQ982	S	W	N	E
Q93	AJ74	AJ7	5	1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
A4	3	AQ83	AKJ3	?			
Q75	K5	4	KJT				
3♠	3NT	4♣	4♥				

KJT82	KJ963	AKJ94	KT9762	S	W	N	E
AK5	AQ7	J5	AQJ3	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3	KJ2	AQ3	5	?			
AQ74	A6	QJ8	AK				
4 ♦	4 ♠	4 ♠	4NT				

Attention!

- * If Bergen Raises are used, then 2-level minor responses to 1M opening cannot be played as 100% game forcing. As a result, responder's rebid of his minor at 3-level is non-forcing with at least 6-card suit and ~11 HCP unless opener shows a good hand with his rebid.
- * Bergen raises can not be used by a passed hand.

PREEMPTIVE RAISE

Raising the opening major to 3-level requires 3-5 HCP with 4-card fit and at least 4-4-3-2 distribution. If vulnerable, hand must be more unbalanced.

S	W	N	E	J9762	42	Q64
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥		QT84	QJ53	97653
				53	JT92	T97
				74	T87	62
S	W	N	E	Q9762	KT96	9764
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠		T984	53	8
				4	853	KT973
				J63	T984	862

Wizard of Oz Bridge System by Melih Ozdil

JOSEPHINE

This convention developed by **Josephine Culbertson** (1898-1956), is used to find out about trump honors with grand slam hope.

If opener and responder makes a forced suit preference after bidding various suits, 5NT means “make a choice at 6-level”. On the other hand, 5NT bid by any one side without asking key cards is Josephine application in the following developments below.

- Directly bidding 5NT after agreeing on a trump suit or after cue-bids.
- Jumping to 5NT over partner’s rebid of his opening suit.
- Jumping to 5NT after partner’s rebid of a new suit while at the same time confirming that selected trump is the new suit.
- Jumping to 5NT over partner’s cue-bid that showed support.
- Jump to 5NT after partner’s preference if it is known that there is no chance to play in another suit.

If the selected trump is a minor, applying Josephine convention with 5♣ and a good partnership agreement is to be established. In this case, after minor suit supports and over control bids at 4-level jump to 5♣ is used as trump honor asking bid.

If Trump Honors are Asked with 5NT or 5♣

* Alpha Application

If the declarer made a bid showing good 5-card suit, overcalled at two or higher level or made a preemptive bid, responses to the trump honor asking bid will be with Alpha application.

S	W	N	E
5NT	Pass	?	

- 1st step : Shows one honor
- 2nd step : Shows AQ or KQ
- 3rd step : Shows AK
- 4th step : Shows AKQ

* Beta Application

Responder uses Beta application over partner’s trump honors asking bid if his partner didn’t show a special distribution even if he rebid his suit twice.

S	W	N	E
5NT	Pass	?	

- 1st step : Shows one honor
- 2nd step : Shows no honor
- 3rd step : Shows two honors
- 4th step : Shows three honors

After single honor is shown in both applications, the next step asks the quality of this honor. Responder returns to the trump at 6-level with the queen and at 7-level with ace or king. The grand slam contract will be a perfect choice if this search done by a person who knows total ten cards in both hands even if the queen is missing.