

Bergen Raises

When your partner opens major and you have fit at 3 level or 4+ level, Bergen raise is a method of communicating your point range (in a modular form) and number of trump support (3 or 4+).

Dummy points when you have support

Sum off:

- High card points
- Long suit points (1 for 5 card suit, 2 for a 6 card suit etc)
- Short suit points
- § 1 point for each doubleton
- § For singleton add 2 points with 3 trumps and 3 points for 4+ trumps hand
- § For void value is the same as dummy's # of trumps

Bergen Responses

Partner opens major (say 1H), you will respond as follows:

- 2H with 7-10 dummy points and 3 H support (business as usual)
- 3C with 7-10 dummy points and 4+ H support
- 3D with 10-12 dummy points and 4+ H support
- 2S with 10-12 dummy points and 3 H support (if partner opens **1S, 3H** response)
- 3H with 2-7 dummy points and 4+ H support
- 3NT with 13-15 **hcp**, 3 H and 4-3-3-3 shape (non forcing)
- 2NT with 13+ dummy points and 4+ H support or 16+ & 3 H support

Notice overlap points. This is to apply judgment for good and bad points and to upgrade or downgrade.

Reasons to upgrade: Aces, honors in long suits, quality suits with 4+ cards and 3+ honors

Reasons to Downgrade: Queens and Jacks specially in suits with no honor, singleton K,Q,J, honor in short suits

Opener points revaluation after Bergen Raise (Bergen Points)

Sum off:

- Initial high card and length points (1 point for 5 card, 2 points for 6 card etc)
- Extra points if trump suit is 6+ cards (1 for 6 card, 2 for 7 card etc)
- One point for any side suit with 4+ cards
- Short suit points
- § 4 points for void
- § 2 points for singleton
- § No point for 1 doubleton, but 1 point (in total) if more than 1 doubleton

Total points and final contract

Total opener's Bergen points and responder points and aim for where contract belongs:

- § If definitely 26 total points, bid game
- § If may have 26 points, make a game try
- § If you may have 33 total points, investigate slam

Subsequent responses

After 1H – 2NT response (support & 13+ dummy points, 4+ trump), opener will use Jacoby responses as follows:

With singleton or void in C/D/S will bid 3C/3D/3S

With no singleton or void, opener describes his strength so partner can decide if look for slam or not.

4H with 12-14 Bergen points

3NT with 15-16 Bergen points

3H with 17+ Bergen points

Game/Slam tries after 3C & 3D responses.

After:

1H/1S – 3C we can invite by bidding 3D or 3H

After:

1H/1S – 3D

- bid of a suit at 3 or 4 level below game is cue bidding, showing 1st or 2nd level control, interest in slam.
- 4H/4S to play
- 3H/3S shows minimum balanced. Responder can pass or take to game.

Bergen Raises after interference or partner overcall

After RHO Doubles: Yes, we ignore X and use Bergen Raises as usual

After RHO Overcalls

If overcall is at 1 level such as; 1H-1S or 1H/1S/1NT: Yes we use Bergen Raises

If overcall is at 2 level: No, we bid naturally including use of Cue bids

Partner Overcalls: No, if possible we use Drury or Cue bid (refer to competitive bidding)