

INVERTED MINORS

The Inverted Minor Raises is a treatment and belongs to the Kaplan-Scheinwold system. Many bridge partnerships continue to use the Inverted Minors treatment as part of their partnership agreement.

The concept behind Inverted Minors is a simple one:

A single raise of the Minor suit of the opener is strong and forcing and shows generally at least 9/10 high card points.

A double raise is weak and obstructive, and shows 8 high card points or less in strength.

In order to apply the Inverted Minor Raise, the responder should have at least a 5-card support of the opener's Minor suit, in case the opener was forced to open a 3-card Minor suit.

The responder should not have a 4-card Major suit. This is especially true for all those partnerships using 5-card Major suit openings.

The following examples show how the Inverted Minor raises are used, and illustrate how the structure of the responder's holding should be when making a single raise.

Opener	Responder
	♠ 96
	♥ K76
	♦ K9874
	♣ K83
1 ♦	2 ♦

The responder, with the structure of the above example, would bid 2 Diamonds, showing at least 9/10 plus high card points. This bid is forcing for one round. There is also a 4-card Major suit lacking.

Opener	Responder
	♠ 52
	♥ A95
	♦ Q9874
	♣ QJ
1 ♦	2 ♦

The responder, with the structure of the above example, would bid 2 Diamonds, showing at least 9/10 plus high card points. This bid is forcing for one round. Again, there is a 4-card Major suit lacking.

Since the single raise is forcing, the opener has several options. Some partnerships play that the sequence 1 Diamond - 2 Diamonds is forcing to game. However, it is normally agreed that:

Opener Responder

- 1 ♦ 2 ♦
- 2 NT shows minimum, non-forcing
- 3 ♦ obstructive, non-forcing
- 2 ♥/♠ encouraging to responder to bid 3 No Trump.
 Responder is forced to bid again, and shows a NT stopper if possible.
 Otherwise, the responder rebids Diamonds.

Opener Responder

- ♠ 52
- ♥ 953
- ♦ Q9874
- ♣ K83
- 1 ♦ 3 ♦

In this example, the responder bids 3 Diamonds to show 8 or less high card points, the necessary five cards support in Diamonds, and no 4-card Major suit.

Opener Responder

- ♠ 5
- ♥ 95
- ♦ Q9876432
- ♣ 83
- 1 ♦ 3 ♦

In this example, the responder bids 3 Diamonds to show 8 or less high card points, and the necessary five cards support in Diamonds. Since the responder would not bid a 4-card Major suit, if he had a 4-card Major suit, he can not bid due to lack of high card points. Therefore, the double raise used in the Inverted Minors treatment is purely obstructive. The opponents must enter the bidding on the three level.

Opponents love to intervene and overcall and/or double. It is generally accepted and agreed upon by partnership understanding that the Inverted Minors treatment becomes then inactive and that the system is off. Any raises of a Minor suit opening and/or the bid of a new suit becomes then standard.

It is of the utmost importance that the partnership realize that both Kaplan and Scheinwold both agreed that if there were any interference from the opponents before the responder has a chance to use the Inverted Minors treatment, then the Inverted Minors agreement is off. Once the opponents enter the bidding before the responder has a chance to bid, then the meanings of the Minor suit raises become standard.