



## 2019-2020: Workshop #3

# Bidding the Minors

Summer, 2023 with Tom Snow

# Opening One of a Minor

Without a 1NT or 2C opener, and no 5<sup>+</sup>-card major, you open 1 of a minor.

**But which one? Here are the rules:**

**#1) If one minor suit is longer than the other, open it.**

♠97 ♥A53 ♦KQ43 ♣KJ865 1C

**#2) With 3-3 in the minors, open 1C.**

♠Q97 ♥AK53 ♦KQ3 ♣865 1C

**#3) With 4-4, 5-5 or 6-6 in the minors, open 1D.**

♠762 ♥K3 ♦KJ53 ♣AQ65 1D

♠7 ♥K3 ♦KQ753 ♣AQ954 1D



Allowing your partner to bid 1D with 5<sup>+</sup> of them.

Making your rebids of the club suit easier.

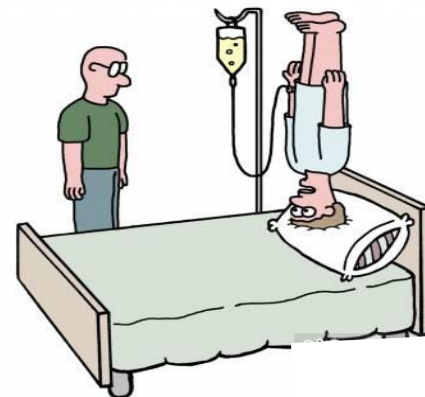
## The problem:

# Inverted Minors

Partner opens 1D and RHO passes. What do you bid with:

♠A73 ♥53 ♦A10943 ♣AQ2

Using conventional methods, 3D is invitational (or weak). Do you gamble with 3NT? Partner may not have hearts stopped, and the lead is going through his heart holding. You may belong in 5D, or even 6D.



"The doctors say I'll be back on my feet soon."

Both forcing until either partner bids 2NT or 3 of the minor.

Playing Inverted Minors means that if your partner opens a minor, you make a simple raise to show 5+ trumps, 11+ HCP and no 4+-card major.

**1C – Pass – 2C\*** or **1D – Pass – 2D\*** (BOTH ALERTABLE)

If you jump raise in his minor, it's pre-emptive, showing 5+ trumps and 4-7 HCP's:

**1C – Pass – 3C\*** or **1D – Pass – 3D\*** (BOTH ALERTABLE)

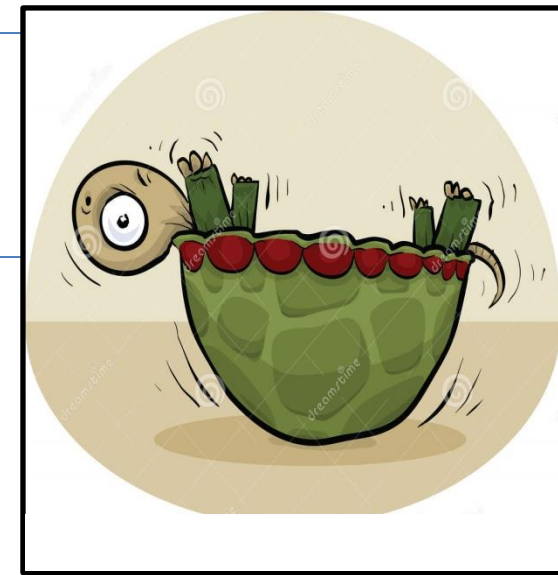
With 8-10 HCPs, just bid 1NT.

### Inv. Minors Advantages:

- A slow forcing raise let's your side explore for No Trump (played from the right side) or a minor suit slam.
- A jump raise can shut the opponents out.

# Inverted Minors

**Caution: Many times, opener will have 12-14 HCPs because he didn't open 1NT.**



1)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	Pass	???
<b>3C*</b>				
West	♠97	♥J53	♦743	♣KJ865

3)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	Pass	???
<b>1NT</b>				
West	♠Q3	♥K92	♦K83	♣J9764

2)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1D	Pass	???
<b>2D*</b>				
West	♠KQ10	♥A53	♦Q9743	♣85

4)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	1S	???
<b>2C</b>				
West	♠83	♥J82	♦A105	♣QJ764

**Inverted Minors are off after an opponent enters the auction (but a jump to 3C would still be weak).**

Inverted Minors are on even if you're a passed hand, but not if an opponent overcalls.

# Inverted Minor Practice



You have enough HCPs to play in No Trump (and honors to protect).

1)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	Pass	1C	Pass
	2C*	???		
North	♠75	♥QJ5	♦A93	♣KJ854

4)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1C	Pass	???
	1NT			
West	♠K72	♥K92	♦K4	♣87653

2)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1D	Pass	???
	1S			
West	♠Q1062	♥A5	♦AJ963	♣95

5)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	Pass	1D	Pass
	3D*	???		
North	♠Q73	♥865	♦KJ873	♣85

Don't bypass a major.

Inv. Minors are still on after you've passed.

3)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1C	1H	???
	3C*			
West	♠J107	♥32	♦Q43	♣QJ875

6)

	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1D	Pass	???
	Pass			
West	♠73	♥K43	♦Q973	♣9873

Even though Inverted Minors are off in competition, a jump to 3C is still pre-emptive because you have a cue bid of 2H available.

Even though a 1D opener usually has a 4-card suit, there isn't enough shape here to warrant a pre-empt. Stay out of trouble.

# The Minors High Road

Shows ♥'s stopped but not ♠'s.  
If partner rebids 2S, bid 2NT with no extra HCPs). If he rebids 3C, you should pass.

The theory behind this is that with no 8-card major fit, you'll usually have the other minor stopped.

After a strong simple raise, major suit stoppers are bid, or 2NT with both majors stopped (trying to play NT).

1)

	North	East	South	West
	1C	Pass	2C*	Pass
	???			

2H\*

North ♠75 ♥KJ5 ♦AJ3 ♣KJ854

4)

	North	East	South	West
	1C	Pass	2C*	Pass
	???			

2NT

North ♠KJ2 ♥KQ2 ♦94 ♣A7653

Both majors stopped and a minimum. Bid 3NT with more HCPs.

If partner then bids 3S (extras), you bid 3NT.

2)

	North	East	South	West
	1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
	???	Pass	???	

3C

North ♠62 ♥Q5 ♦AQ963 ♣KKQ5

5)

	North	East	South	West
	1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
	2S	Pass	???	

3S\*

South ♠AK3 ♥5 ♦KQ10873 ♣A85

♦ Slam try - Partner bypassed 2H, so not much wasted.

No real major suit stoppers, but you have clubs stopped. Pard's HCP still unknown.

3)

	North	East	South	West
	1C	Pass	2C*	Pass
	???			

2S\*

North ♠KJ72 ♥42 ♦KQ3 ♣A1075

6)

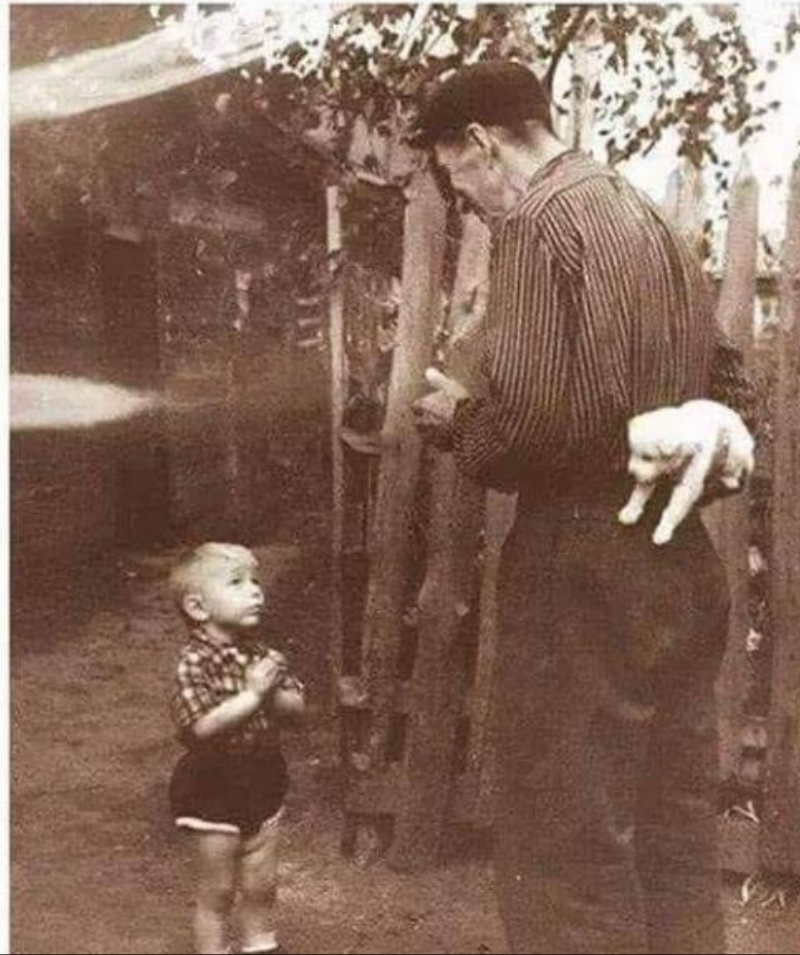
	North	East	South	West
	1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
	2NT	Pass	???	

3D

South ♠K42 ♥Q43 ♦KQJ73 ♣83

If pard has both majors stopped, who's stopping ♣'s?

This photo is from 1955, it was called  
"a few seconds before happiness".



**Time for Mentored Play**

# Hand #1

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Pass	Pass	1D	Pass
2D*	Pass	2S*	Pass
3C	Pass	4C	Pass
6D	Pass	Pass	Pass

North  
♠ AJ7  
♥ ---  
♦ 109864  
♣ AJ832

West  
♠ 1053  
♥ QJ976  
♦ J3  
♣ Q65



East  
♠ 864  
♥ AK582  
♦ 2  
♣ 10974

Best Lead: Q♥

South  
♠ KQ92  
♥ 1043  
♦ AKQ75  
♣ K

After North finds out South has HCPs in ♠'s and NOT ♥'s, and that he has extra values with his 4C bid, it's fairly easy to get to 6D.

N/S make 7D.



How can South have HCP's in ♥'s, ♠'s and probably ♦'s, and still have ♣'s stopped?

# Hand #2



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1D	Pass
2D*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
5D	Pass	6D	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North  
 ♠ AK3  
 ♥ KQ  
 ♦ KJ432  
 ♣ 863

West  
 ♠ 75  
 ♥ 10863  
 ♦ 1097  
 ♣ K1095

Best Lead: 10♣

East  
 ♠ J1064  
 ♥ 754  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ AQJ72

South  
 ♠ Q982  
 ♥ AJ92  
 ♦ AQ65  
 ♣ 4

After North finds out South probably has no club cards, 5D seems like the best game.  
  
 South can now bid 6D with a singleton ♣.

# Hand #3

\* Support Double, showing 3-card support.



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	Pass
1D	1H	Dbl*	Pass
2D	Pass	Pass	Pass

North  
 ♠ K42  
 ♥ J6  
 ♦ K9652  
 ♣ 854

East  
 ♠ A73  
 ♥ K10432  
 ♦ J10  
 ♣ KQ2

Lead = 8♥

West  
 ♠ Q985  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ 874  
 ♣ AJ107

South  
 ♠ J106  
 ♥ AQ97  
 ♦ AQ3  
 ♣ 963

South needs to open the bidding with 1C in order to find their 8-card ♦ fit. They make 2D only (+90).  
 E/W make maybe 6 tricks in ♥'s.

Draw some trumps and leave the high ones outstanding.

# Hand #4



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
			Pass
1D	Pass	1H	Dbl*
2H	Pass	3C	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North  
 ♠ K43  
 ♥ 83  
 ♦ K9763  
 ♣ AKJ4

West  
 ♠ 1082  
 ♥ Q52  
 ♦ A1085  
 ♣ Q7

East  
 ♠ QJ5  
 ♥ AK1096  
 ♦ J4  
 ♣ 983

Best Lead: K♥

South  
 ♠ A976  
 ♥ J74  
 ♦ Q2  
 ♣ 10652

North opens 1D instead of 1C, so he doesn't get trapped in the bidding. N/S makes 3C (+110).

N/S make only 7 in ♥'s tricks with a ♥ lead from South.

**\*Inverted Minor:  
5<sup>+</sup>-card support and  
4-7 HCPs.**

# Hand #5

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	3D*	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North  
 ♠ Q92  
 ♥ A75  
 ♦ KQ85  
 ♣ K102

Lead = 10♥

West  
 ♠ 1083  
 ♥ K1092  
 ♦ A9  
 ♣ A764

East  
 ♠ KJ76  
 ♥ QJ83  
 ♦ 103  
 ♣ QJ5

South  
 ♠ A54  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ J7642  
 ♣ 983

**In 3D, N/S lose 2 ♠'s, 1 ♥,  
1 ♦, and 2 ♣'s for down 2  
(-100).**

**In ♥'s, E/W lose 1 ♠, 1 ♥, 1  
♦, and 1 C (+140).**



# Hand #6

**\*Inverted Minor:  
5<sup>+</sup>-card support and  
11<sup>+</sup> HCPs.**

**Both majors stopped.**

I spent 30 minutes talking to them to learn more about their culture until the barman told me they were umbrellas..



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	1C	Pass
2C*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North  
 ♠ A5  
 ♥ Q107  
 ♦ Q102  
 ♣ KQ842

East  
 ♠ 1083  
 ♥ 986  
 ♦ A9865  
 ♣ 103

West  
 ♠ QJ97  
 ♥ K532  
 ♦ K74  
 ♣ 97

Lead: Q♠

South  
 ♠ K642  
 ♥ AJ4  
 ♦ J3  
 ♣ AJ65

**N/S will most likely wind up with 9 tricks in 3NT (+400).**

# Hand #7



Wow, all the way from the couch. Have the endorphins kicked in?

**\*Inverted Minor:**  
5<sup>+</sup>-card support and  
11<sup>+</sup> HCPs.

♥'s stopped,  
but **NOT** ♠'s.

Not enough to  
go to game.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1D	Pass
2D*	Pass	2H*	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North  
 ♠ KQ9  
 ♥ 874  
 ♦ A10843  
 ♣ Q2

West  
 ♠ AJ64  
 ♥ Q96  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ J10964

East  
 ♠ 10753  
 ♥ **J**1053  
 ♦ Q75  
 ♣ A5

Lead: J♥

South  
 ♠ 82  
 ♥ AK2  
 ♦ K962  
 ♣ K873

N/S will probably lose 1  
 ♠, 2 ♥'s, 1 ♦, and 1 ♣  
 trick – making 2NT  
 (+120).

**\*4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing**  
(artificial H bid,  
forcing to game).

# Hand #8



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
			Pass
1C	Pass	1D	Pass
1S	Pass	2H*	Pass
3D	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5C*	Pass	7D	Pass

North  
 ♠ A983  
 ♥ ---  
 ♦ KJ6  
 ♣ AQJ932

East  
 ♠ KQ102  
 ♥ J10742  
 ♦ 4  
 ♣ 754

West  
 ♠ J765  
 ♥ ~~K~~Q983  
 ♦ 87  
 ♣ 106

South  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ A65  
 ♦ AQ109532  
 ♣ K8

**N/S makes**

**\*3 Key Cards: A♠,  
A♣ and the K♦.**

**Lead: K♥**

**\*Inverted Minor:**  
5<sup>+</sup>-card support and  
11<sup>+</sup> HCPs.

# Hand #9

♠'s stopped,  
but **NOT** ♥'s.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	2D*	Pass
2S	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North  
 ♠ K753  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ AQ83  
 ♣ AQ63

West  
 ♠ **Q**J109  
 ♥ KJ93  
 ♦ 52  
 ♣ 987

**Lead: Q♠**



East  
 ♠ 82  
 ♥ 108752  
 ♦ 104  
 ♣ K1042

South  
 ♠ A64  
 ♥ AQ4  
 ♦ KJ976  
 ♣ J5

**South knows that North probably has a ♣ honor to come to 12<sup>+</sup> HCPs. It's best to have the lead come into his J5. N/S make 4NT (+430).**



# Hand #10

**\*Feature Asking Bid.**

**Weak Two Bid.**

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	Pass	2D	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3C*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5H*	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

**Two Key Cards.**

**Lead: Q♠**

West

♠ 765  
♥ K10765  
♦ J  
♣ A743

North

♠ AK  
♥ AQ  
♦ Q1093  
♣ KJ862

East

♠ **Q**J1084  
♥ J9832  
♦ 65  
♣ 5

South

♠ 932  
♥ 4  
♦ AK8742  
♣ Q109



**When South shows top of his range and a club feature (A, K or Q), he can count 12 tricks after knocking out the A♣ (+1440). Not only does 6D pay less, but it may go down with the A♣ lead and another.**

Bidding 2D would be a Reverse (18-19 HCPs).

# Hand #11



3 Key Cards.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1C	Pass
1S	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	3S	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5C*	Pass
6D	Pass	Pass	Pass

North  
 ♠ AQ102  
 ♥ A86  
 ♦ QJ1094  
 ♣ 4

In case partner wants to play 3NT with QX♥.

West  
 ♠ 83  
 ♥ 10932  
 ♦ 873  
 ♣ KQ95

East  
 ♠ 9765  
 ♥ ~~K~~QJ75  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ 1082

Lead: K♥

South  
 ♠ KJ4  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ AK65  
 ♣ AJ763

Playing in your 4-3 major suit fit (6S for +980), would usually be the best score in matchpoints, unless anyone else bid the grand slam in ♦'s (+1440).

**Forcing**

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	2C	Pass
2S	Pass	2NT	Pass
3C	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5C*	Pass	5D*	Pass
5H*	Pass	7NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

# Hand #12

**KC Blackwood for ♣'s**

**Have the Q of trumps?**

**1 key card**

**Yes, I do.**

**Lead: 2♦**

West  
 ♠ 7653  
 ♥ 9653  
 ♦ 762  
 ♣ J9

North  
 ♠ K1092  
 ♥ K8  
 ♦ AJ93  
 ♣ Q83

East  
 ♠ 84  
 ♥ QJ1074  
 ♦ K1054  
 ♣ 76

South  
 ♠ AQJ  
 ♥ A2  
 ♦ Q8  
 ♣ AK10542

**N/S make 7C (+2140), 7S (+2210) or 7NT (+2220).**

**South can count 6 ♣ tricks, 4 ♠ tricks, and either 3 ♦ tricks or 3 ♥ tricks, depending upon which king North holds.**

