

JUMP-CUE MIXED RAISE

Author: Larry Cohen

Article No 22 - Date - JUNE 2012 & Level: Intermediate to Advanced

OPPONENT	PARTNER	OPPONENT	YOU
1 ♠	1 ♣	Pass	3 ♠

Your 3 ♠ bid is a "jump-cuebid". Any time the opponents open and your partner overcalls, you can make such a jump-cuebid. What does it mean? We'll get to that in a moment. For now, let's do what we should do for all conventions. Make sure we know when it is on. A jump-cue to show a mixed raise is defined as follows:

Any time the Opponents open the bidding and our side makes an overcall: Regardless of what their responder does, the partner of the *overcaller* jumps in the opener's suit. Sounds like a mouthful, I know. Just look at the example auction above if you are confused. (A jump to the 4-level should be a Splinter Bid -- so we are talking here only about a jump-cue on the 3-level).

Okay. So we know what a jump-cue is. What does it show? It should be played as a "Mixed Raise." What's that? This term is growing in popularity. It means: "4-card trump support and more than a preemptive raise, but less than a limit raise." For example, on the auction above, the jump-cue-bidder might hold:

♠ K J 4 3
 ♥ K J 6 5
 ♦ 4 3
 ♣ 8 6 2

This is a hand that wants to go to the 3-level (Law of Total Tricks) and do so quickly. However, it is too good for a preemptive raise of 3 ♣ (which would be made with the same hand but no ♥ KJ). Meanwhile, this hand is not strong enough for a 2 ♠ cue-bid, which would promise 10 (limit or better). A "single" cue-bid (2 ♠) should show at least a *limit raise* (with 3 or more trump). The *jump-cue* always delivers that 4th trump, but is *lighter than limit* (yet more than preemptive).

This convention is easy to use and easy to remember. Even if partner "forgets," it is unlikely he will take your jump-cue as natural. This method comes up quite frequently. Observe that the "jump cue-bid" says absolutely nothing about the suit you are jumping in (you could have three little, you could have the ace). Got it? If not, here are a few examples:

Jump-Cue to show Mixed Raise:

OPPONENT	PARTNER	OPPONENT	YOU
1 ♣	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♣

♠ A 5
 ♥ Q J 9 8
 ♦ J 10 4 2
 ♣ 7 6 3

OPPONENT	PARTNER	OPPONENT	YOU
1 ♥	2 ♣	Double	3 ♥

♠ 7 6 5 4
 ♥ A 9 8 7
 ♦ 6
 ♣ Q 10 8 7

OPPONENT	PARTNER	OPPONENT	YOU
1 ♠	1 ♥	1 ♣	3 ♠

♠ K 9 7 5
 ♥ K J 7 4
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ J 10 5

Notes:

1. Don't mix this up with auctions where WE open. This is on only when THEY open and we overcall. For example, the following auction is NOT a "jump-cue mixed raise":

PARTNER	OPPONENT	YOU
1 ♥	1 ♣	3 ♣

2. This article assumed that you are using the modern method of a jump-raise in competition as preemptive. Any time partner overcalls, you should use a jump raise as weak. However, even if you are using the old-fashioned method of all jump raises in competition as limit, that won't preclude you from using the jump-cue as mixed.

A jump-cuebid is alertable.