

BERGEN RAISES in 2/1
by Maritha

Bergen Raises are based on the principles of the “Law of Total Tricks” which theorizes that with 9 trumps, you are relatively safe at the 3 level (might make, might go down one & if you do go down, the opponents were probably making something). Other authorities say that the Law of Total Tricks works only about 60-65% of the time. Some of my partners will not use Bergen (particularly the preemptive Bergen raise of 1 of a major to 3 of a major) without a singleton or a void. The Law of Total Tricks works much better when you have extra distribution with your ninth trump.

After 1 of a major opening, **the raise to 3 is PREEMPTIVE and shows 0-6 HCP with 4 trumps** guaranteed (sometimes 5 and a very bad hand).

Jxxx	Jxxxx	Qxxx	Kxxx
Qxxx	x	xx	xxx
xx	xxxx	Kxxxx	xxxx
Jxx	xxx	xx	xx

A Bergen Raise to 3C shows 7-9 HCP and 4 trumps:

Qxxx	KQxx	10xxx	Axxx
Kxxx	Kx	KQJx	Ax
Qxx	xxxx	xx	xxxx
xx	xxx	QJX	xxx

A Bergen Raise to 3D shows 10-12 HCP and 4 trumps

xxxx	A10xx	Kxxx	QJXx
AQxx	AQxx	Axx	Kx
KJx	Q10xx	Ax	Kxxx
xx	xx	xxxx	QJx

NOTE: Some people prefer to reverse the meanings of 3C and 3D. This saves a little more bidding room with the better hands (for game tries and cue bidding for slams).