

# Limit Raises

New and Improved!

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/LimitRaises.pdf>

## Minor Limit Raise

1♣ 3♣

1♦ 3♦

10-12 HCP (do not count distribution because one is looking for 3NT)

denies a four-card major

five-card support

2NT is not bid because either both majors not stopped or there is a  
singleton or void

1♣ 2NT

1♦ 2NT

10-12 HCP

denies a four-card major

both majors stopped

no singletons or voids

## Major Limit Raise

1♥ 3♥ (denies 4♠'s)

1♠ 3♠

10-12 points (high card points plus distribution)

3+card support

Trump Support	Distributional Points		
	Doubleton	Singleton	Void
3-card	1	2	3
4-card	1	3	5
5-card	1	4	6

## 2/1

A major limit raise shows four-card support otherwise one bids forcing notrump then three of the major.

## Standard American

A major limit raise usually shows four-card support. With only three-card support, one bids a new suit at the two-level and then bids three of the major. If partner raises your suit, you may even bid four of the major.

## 2nd Suit Limit Raises

♠3 ♥Q32 ♦10983 ♣AQ1098

1♥ 2♣

2♦ 3♥

♠32 ♥Q32 ♦K983 ♣AQ109

1♥ 2♣

2♦ 4♥

## In Competition:

If partner opens and opponents overcall or double, a jump to three of partner's suit (major or minor) is weak (2-8 not vulnerable and 5-8 vulnerable).

After Overcall:

1♦ 2♣ 3♣ 10+ with 4+ card ♦ support no 4-card major

1♥ 2♦ 3♦ 10+ with 3+ card major ♥ support

After Double:

Rdbl 10+, implies no fit

2NT 10+ with 3-card support for partner's major and 4-card support for partner's minor.

W	N	E	S	
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1♠	x	2♣		East did not redouble
				East has a good suit and less than 10

1♥	x	2NT		East has 10+ points and 3+ ♥'s
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1♠	x	xx		East has 10+ HCP's and 2 or less ♠'s
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After a redouble, all doubles are penalty and each player is given a chance to double where the opponents end up.

W	N	E	S	
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1♠	x	xx	2♥	
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P				forcing pass
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## 1M to 4M

1♠ 4♠

1♥ 4♥

5-card support

less than 8 HCP

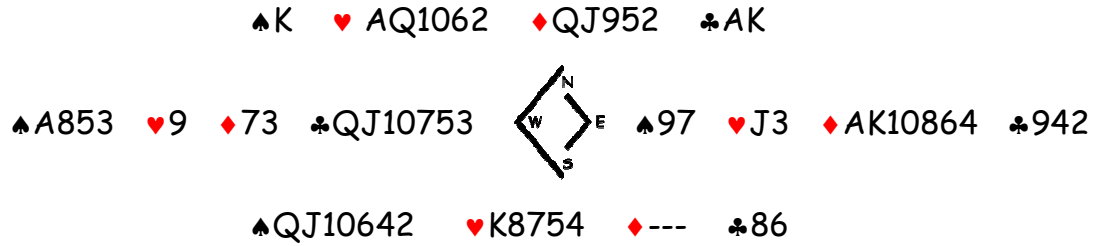
no voids

singleton if vulnerable

With the boss suit, one need not panic and go to four with 5-8 points. One also needs to be careful about pushing them into a makeable game. Sometimes just a simple raise can be effective.

# Examples

Example 1.



N	E	S	W
1♥	2♦	3♦	P
3♠	P	4♦	P
5♣	P	5♦	P
6♥	All Pass		

Diamond cuebid establishes ♥'s as trump. We will never play spades so do not bid them unless as a cuebid. 3♠ is a slam try. It says, "I have a spade control, 1st or 2nd round)." 5♣ says I have 1st round control in clubs. 4♦ says 1st or 2nd round control. 5♦ says void.

Example 2. North South Vulnerable

♠AK1043   ♥543   ♦K2   ♣K32  
 ♠QJ5   ♥AK982   ♦J109   ♣QJ   ♠---   ♥QJ10   ♦AQ8765   ♣A1075  
 ♠98762   ♥76   ♦43   ♣9864




N   E   S   W  
 1♠   2♦   4♠   Dbl  
 All Pass

Q♥ led against 4♠x. West wins King♥ and puts q♣ on table. East West take 3 clubs tricks and exits 10♥. West wins a♥ and puts j♦ on the table. East West takes three ♣'s, two diamonds, two hearts and likely one spade. West plays the 5♠ on the first round of trump.

4♠xN-5 -1400

You tell me, should South pass or bid 4♠? Not vulnerable, it is still -1100 and East is always behind North.


### Example 3. Second Suit Game Raise

♠ AK543    ♥ 8543    ♦ AKJ2    ♣ ---  
  
 ♠ 10987    ♥ 762    ♦ ---    ♣ AKQJ109

N	S
1♠	2♣
2♦	4♠

South bidding his side suit warns North against attempting any bid above 4♠...  
Wasted honours.

### Example 4. Weak Raise

♠ AKQ76    ♥ 8543    ♦ 9876    ♣ ---  
  
 ♠ J10985    ♥ 762    ♦ ---    ♣ 109876

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	Dbl	4♠
??			


Compare example 3 and 4. I took the wasted honours away. 4♠ makes on a cross-ruff three rounds of hearts are taken and trump not led.



Example 5.

None Vulnerable

♠QJ543   ♥J98   ♦K2   ♣AQ9  
 ♠---   ♥765   ♦A8764   ♣J7543   ♠AK9   ♥A1043   ♦Q432   ♣K10  
 ♠108762   ♥KQ2   ♦43   ♣862



N	E	S	W
1♠	1NT	4♠	P
P	Dbl (and thanks but it is not Christmas)		


-500. At none vulnerable, -500 is probably a zero. Please get it out of your head that when partner opens one of a major and you have five-card support, you need to bid game. With 1NT behind Most of North and South's points, it is amazing, it is only 500.

The correct auction is the following:

N	E	S	W
1♠	1NT	2♠	All Pass

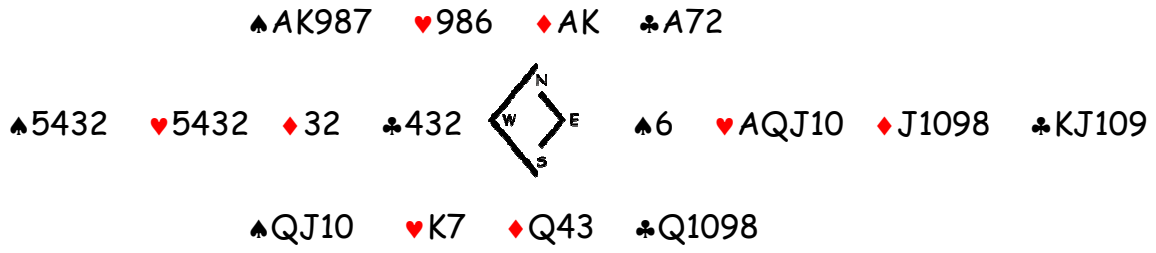
Example 6.

♠984   ♥AK543   ♦AK62   ♣2  
 ♠QJ10   ♥QJ10   ♦QJ1043   ♣109



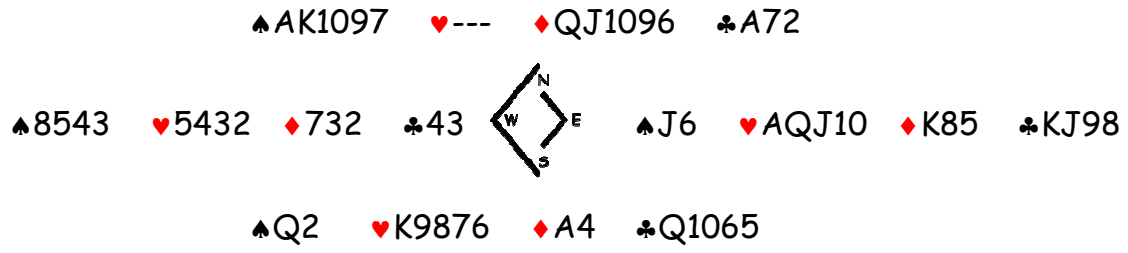
N	S
1♥	2♦
3♦	3♥
4♥	

Example 7.



N	E	S	W
1♠	Dbl	2NT	P
4♠			

Example 8.



N	E	S	W
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	2♥
P	P	Dbl	All Pass

It is better for them to play 2Hx then 4♠.