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2/1 ideas (conclusion)

In an earlier part of this series, I defined a jump shift in competition at the two level as weak, but I did not define jumps to the three level in competition. This article discusses sequences such as:

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	3♦	

or

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	3♥	

(Note that 1♣-1♥-3♠ is a double jump in competition and is not the type of sequence I'm discussing here.)

Jump shifts at the three level can be played in a variety of ways. They can be preemptive, they can be mildly invitational, they can be strong, they can be fit-showing or they can even be artificial showing some kind of raise for partner's suit. With all these treatments to choose from, it is wise that you and your partner agree.

Here is the treatment that I included in my 2/1 software. Play that a jump shift in competition to the three level is something like a decent preempt. Seven-card length is likely, but six is possible. You show 6 to 9 points (or so) for this bid.

Mike's Advice

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	?	

Here are some hands that might choose to bid clubs at some level.

♠743 ♥43 ♦K3 ♣Q98743

Pass. The clubs are too weak.

♠743 ♥43 ♦K3 ♣KJ10874

The clubs are good enough but you have only six of them. Bid 3♣ if you hate passing. But passing is not terrible either.

♠74 ♥53 ♦Q74 ♣KQJ1074

Only six clubs but they are very good. 3♣ is a fair choice now.

♠3 ♥763 ♦J10 ♣KQ98754

Bid 3♣. The seventh club and the decent suit make this acceptable.

♠84 ♥A7 ♦Q64 ♣KQ9874

Bid 2♣, not 3♣. You hope for opener to be able to do something useful. Note that if he rebids 2NT, you can pass if you wish. Because your 2♣ bid was made in competition, it did not create a game force. In fact, you could take a chance and raise to 3NT with this hand. It rates to have a play of sort if the clubs turn out to be useful.

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♣	?	

♠K93 ♥Q107653 ♦3 ♣J32

Forget the hearts. Just raise to 2♠.

♠7 ♥Q1098653 ♦K83 ♣93

You can bid 3♥ with this one. A seven-card suit, some shape, enough overall values that you are willing to play in 3♥ facing a normal opening bid. It is true that your partner will expect one more high-card point,

but your good heart spots and shape should make up for that little oversight.

♠84 ♥AQJ985 ♦K43 ♣83

Bid 2♥ and then rebid 3♥ if the auction goes in normal fashion. If your partner rebids 3♠, raise to 4♠ and forget the hearts.

♠84 ♥AKJ1074 ♥AQ4 ♣74

Bid 2♥. The trick is the follow-up: If your partner makes a minimal rebid, you better not bid 3♥, which can be passed. Say that your partner bids 2NT. This shows 12-14 points and you can actually pass that. You would not pass with this hand but it is useful to remember that 2NT is not forcing. You should bid 4♥, making sure you reach a game.

♠— ♥KQJ1063 ♦86532 ♣73

Bid 3♥. Your shape and your near-solid suit allow you to make this bid. Consider the alternatives. 2♥ shows more. Passing gives up on possible heart games, and a negative double risks your not being able to tell partner about your good hearts.

♠2 ♥Q86532 ♦KJ3 ♣Q83

Double. No number of hearts is correct. You hope that partner will bid 2♦, in which case you will bid 2♥. If he bids 2♥ (you can dream), you will raise to 3♥. Yes, you have six of them, but you have lots of easily imaginable losers. If he bids 2♠, you should pass, and if he bids 2NT you guess. 3♥ is a likely guess but I would rather not have this decision to make. The big point of this hand is that jumping to 3♥ on this suit is not wise.