

bid, we will be suggesting that slam is possible. Partner may hold:

♠K J 4 2 ♥K 8 7 3 ♦8 7 3 ♣A 5,

which makes 6♠, even if trumps divide 4-1."

Four experts bid their lower four-card major.

"2♠," says Robinson. "Partner promises another bid, and his cuebid asks me to bid my lower four-card major."

"Partner must bid again over my 2♠," agrees Meckstroth.

"North is usually looking for a four-card major," says Lawrence, "and I have one. I could bid 3♣, but that turns a simple auction into a complex one."

"I don't like 3♣ because that would deny four spades," says Colchamiro. "2♠ is forcing because partner promises another bid."

There was one outlier.

"4♦," says Falk. "I want to splinter. After that, I can correct partner's 4♥ to 4♠, and North will know I also have clubs and a slammish hand. I could bid 3♦, but I want to send a definite slam signal, yet give partner leeway if 2♦ was a pushy bid."

When partner promises another bid, keep the bidding low.

5. Matchpoints. North-South vulnerable.

♠6 4 ♥A Q J 4 ♦J 10 7 5 4 ♣7 2

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	1♠	?

Call	Votes	Award
3♣	6	100
2♣	4	80
Dbl	4	60
2♠	2	40
2♦	1	20
3♦	1	10
2♥	0	0
4♦	0	0

**What's a mixed raise?**

Experts have what's called a mixed raise in their bidding arsenal. What is it? After partner makes an overcall, a

jump cuebid to the three level promises four or more trumps and 6 to 10 points. The jump has to be below the trump suit. It gets its name because it has both constructive and preemptive properties.

"3♣ is the poster child for mixed raises," say the Joyces.

"3♣ is a mixed raise," says Meyers. "Bidding 2♣ is a second choice."

"3♣ is a good description," says Kennedy. "My hand is too good for a simple or preemptive raise."

"3♣ is a mixed raise," says Sanborn. "In my own partnerships, I would double to show hearts. That's the lead I want if we defend."

"The only special doubles I could find in Bridge Bulletin Standard are negative and SOS redoubles," says Falk. "Because I can't double to show hearts, I choose 3♣."

Responsive doubles and support doubles and redoubles are part of BBS.

A double by South in this bidding sequence is called a snapdragon double and promises the unbid suit. It is not part of BBS and, therefore, was given a reduced score.

Coopers: "Double — let's not lose the heart suit. We will raise diamonds next."

Colchamiro: "I'm doubling and if partner bids hearts with only three of them, that'll be just fine. I'll compete as high as 4♦ if I have to."

Cohen: "If double shows hearts, then it jumps out as a great call. I can always raise diamonds later."

The other panelists were divided.

Robinson: "2♣ is a limit raise in diamonds. It would be nice to double to show hearts or 3♣ to show a mixed raise, but that's not part of the system. Double is for penalty and 3♣ is a fit-showing response. I refuse to make bids that are not part of the system and anyone who does should be penalized."

A fit-showing jump is defined as being in a new suit. In this case, West opened 1♣, so 3♣ takes the meaning of a mixed raise. BBS is a general guideline and doesn't cover all situ-

ations. It was developed nearly 10 years ago, and there are plans to update it.

Meckstroth: "2♣ — I have a great hand for diamonds."

Walker: "A 2♣ cuebid raise is enough for now. Maybe partner can show a second suit."

Boehm: "2♣. Searching for a heart fit is a mirage. If we fit hearts, they rate to fit spades and can outbid us. I play that the cheaper cuebid (2♣) shows a limit raise, and the higher cuebid (2♠) shows an opening bid."

Stack: "2♠ shows a limit raise in diamonds. This is too big of a diamond fit to make a snapdragon double to show hearts. I am happy to show my diamond fit and limit-raise values."

Gordons: "2♠. We don't see snapdragon doubles on our BBS tool belt, so we will make the cuebid that expresses our diamond length."

What the Gordons mean is that a cuebid in the opponents' lower suit (2♣) shows a three-card limit raise while a cuebid in the higher suit (2♠) promises a four-card (or longer) limit raise.

Assuming South doesn't feel his hand is strong enough for a cuebid, a mixed raise is an excellent depiction of his hand. It shows excellent support and moderate values. Besides being descriptive, it has the advantage of forcing the opponents to compete at the three level. □

You can participate in It's Your Call. Go to [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) and click on My ACBL. You can submit answers for a given month until the 21st, at which time the next month's problems will be available. The top scores for August are:

Drew Becker, Chicago IL	500
Scott Stearns, Elberta AL	500
Tien Chun Yang, San Jose CA	500
Jack Margid, San Francisco CA	500
Robert Giragosian, Bakersfield CA	500
Lulu Minter, Glendora CA	490
Xiao (Joe) Zhao, Hamilton ON	480
Roger Webb, Amherst MA	480
William Holt, Sewickley PA	480