

Five-Step, Four-Suit Major Suit Raises

One addition to ‘Bergen’ is the ability, within the framework of the system, to show various four-card trump raises with and without shortness.

The general principle is that the *first-level* jump shift (JS) shows a *limit raise* and shortness somewhere. The *second level* JS shows an *opening hand*, no shortness; i.e. Jacoby. The *third level* shows a *limit raise (no shortness)*, the *fourth level* shows a *constructive raise*, the fifth level shows garbage. A jump to the 4-level is a conventional splinter.

Here is the schedule:

When hearts is the trump suit

1♥ - 2♠	Limit raise with singleton somewhere
1♥ - 2NT	Jacoby (balanced hand)
1♥ - 3♣	Limit, no singleton
1♥ - 3♦	Constructive
1♥ - 3♥	Garbage (Bergen-Like)
1♥ - 4♣,4♦	Splinter

Opener asks for shortness by bidding “one-up”. So, after 1♥-2♠, 2NT asks for shortness.

Responses:

3♣ - Singleton ♣
3♦ - Singleton ♦
3♥ - Singleton ♠

When spades is the trump suit

1♠ - 2NT	Limit with singleton somewhere
1♠ - 3♣	Jacoby
1♠ - 3♦	Limit, no singleton
1♠ - 3♥	Constructive
1♠ - 3♠	Garbage (Bergen-Like)
1♠ - 4♣,4♦	Splinter

Opener asks for shortness by bidding “one-up”. So, after 1♠-2NT, 3♣ asks for shortness.

Responses:

3♦ - Singleton ♣
3♥ - Singleton ♦
3♠ - Singleton ♥

Note that after a “Jacoby response”, opener either bids shortness, 3 of the major with a good hand, 4 of the major with a normal opening, and 4 of a minor with a good 5-card minor suit.