

# Invitational Jump -- Problem

**Board 12**  
East Deals  
N-S Vul



♠ A Q J 6 2  
♥ J 5  
♦ 10 4  
♣ A K Q 7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	?	

1. Good 6+ card suit, invitational.

My new theory is to play the invitational jump only in clubs. That way, 3 ♦ can be a limit raise and the jump raise to 3 ♠ becomes a mixed (4-card constructive) raise.

However, we were playing all 3-level jump shifts as invitational. Playing in a club matchpoint game, what's your call?

**Board 12**  
 East Deals  
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# Invitational Jump -- Solution

		♠ 4 3	
		♥ 6 4 3	
		♦ A K Q 9 7 3	
		♣ 5 4	
♠ K 10 9 5			♠ 8 7
♥ K 9 7			♥ A Q 10 8 2
♦ J 8 2			♦ 6 5
♣ J 9 6			♣ 10 8 3 2
		♠ A Q J 6 2	
		♥ J 5	
		♦ 10 4	
		♣ A K Q 7	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	?	1 ♠
	1. Good 6+ card suit, invitational.		

Our general agreement is that a bid of 3 ♥ would show a secure stopper, because two suits (hearts and clubs) are in doubt.

Experts sometimes ignore the minor, and their bid of 3 ♥ would *ask* for a stopper. We did not have that agreement. Still, if partner has ♥ Q-3-2, 3 NT should have play. That's what I bid. Good news - the opening lead was a "safe" diamond! I took ten tricks, eschewing the spade hook.

When not playing the invitational jump, this type of auction still cannot be avoided. Here is an equivalent:

1 ♦ - 1 ♠; 3 ♦

Clubs and hearts are still in doubt, but this time the weaker hand has to sort it out. My proposed solution:

3 NT shows both side suits can stand the incoming lead.

3 ♥ asks for a club stopper, showing a heart stopper that can stand a lead across, for example, K-10-3, Q-J-3 or better.

3 ♠ is ambiguous, suggesting a club stopper that can stand a lead across. If the spade-bidder pulls 3 NT, that cancels the club message and shows extra length in spades. Usually, pulling 3 NT shows slam interest, but here we are just trying to get to the best game.

If North did not have the invitational jump available, they would have responded 1 NT, and we would have rebid 2 ♣. North has two ways to bid diamonds, and chooses the invitational 3 ♦. Partner could have bid 2 NT with a secure heart stop, but maybe not with Q-x-x. We could pass, or bid 3 ♥, asking (hearts is the only suit in doubt). Either way, we play a diamond partial, making ten tricks.

With this hand, North would have limited options over opener's 2 ♥ rebid, but that is less common than 2 ♣. The invitational jump gives by far the most bang for the buck in clubs.

So, we got a great score on the deal, as played, while "better" methods produce a ho-hum diamond partial. Luck trumps science, as usual.