

# Inverted Club Raise -- Problem

**Board 24**  
East Deals  
None Vul



♠ A J 8 5  
♥ 6 4  
♦ A 10 7  
♣ Q J 10 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♣
Pass	2 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3 ♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	?

1. Natural, forcing to 2 NT or 3 ♣.
2. Stopper: either game values, or at least one major unstopped.
3. Stopper, forcing, no secure major suit stopper.

What now? Why?

East Deals  
None Vul

East Deals  
None Vul

None Vul

## Inverted Club Raise -- Solution

♠ 7 4  
♥ Q 7  
♦ K Q 8 4  
♣ A K 9 3 2

♠ Q 6 3  
♥ J 10 5 3  
♦ J 9 5 2  
♣ 7 5

W N E S

♠ A J 8 5  
♥ 6 4  
♦ A 10 7  
♣ Q J 10 6

♠ K 10 9 2  
♥ A K 9 8 2  
♦ 6 3  
♣ 8 4

NS 4♦; NS 4♣; NS 2N; EW 2♥; NS 1♠; Par +130: NS 4♣=; NS 4♦=

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		Pass	1 ♣
Pass	2 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3 ♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4 ♣ <sup>4</sup>

All pass

1. Natural, forcing to 2 NT or 3 ♣.
2. Stopper: either game values, or at least one major unstopped.
3. Stopper, forcing, no secure major suit stopper.
4. 3 NT is not playable, and I am minimum.

Let's lay down some principles:

- 1. Game over slam.** Responder may be slamming here, but in a difficult auction, the first priority is finding the correct game.
- 2. When two suits are in doubt,** we bid the stopper that we have. Since the partnership here has not announced a stopper in either major, bidding spades would show a spade stopper and highlight a problem in hearts.
- 3. When one suit is in doubt,** bidding it asks for a stopper -- or in desperation, half a stopper (Q-x or Jxx).

This is an unusual situation: because opener has already denied a heart stopper, 3 ♠ asks for half a heart stopper. 3 ♠ by opener would be correct holding: ♠ A J 5 ♥ J 6 4 A 10 7 ♣ Q J 10 6 (making 4 or 5 NT).

At the table, South did choose 3 ♠. With his half-stopper, North duly bid 3 NT. Disaster did not ensue, as East produced a small heart. Good luck trumps good play, again!

Don't we need to bid 3 ♠ to investigate a 4-3 spade fit? NO! Our spades are unlikely to support a 4 ♠ contract opposite opener's meager spade holding.

We need to play this hand in clubs. The only question is, how many? Well, our opinion is clearly FOUR. Our hand is a bare minimum, so we bid 4 ♣. Partner, with the same doubts, passes.

**Note:** it would be fine for North to respond 1  $\diamond$ , if the partnership has the agreement that a subsequent jump to 3  $\clubsuit$  is natural and forcing. That auction would be {1  $\clubsuit$ -1  $\diamond$ ; 1  $\spadesuit$ -3  $\clubsuit$ ; 3  $\diamond$ -3  $\heartsuit$  [half?]; 4  $\clubsuit$ -Pass}.

**Board 11**  
 South Deals  
 None Vul

# Carding -- Problem



♠ J 4  
 ♥ J 3 2  
 ♦ Q 5 3  
 ♣ J 9 8 5 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	
4 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♦ K			

Take the East seat for this deal in a club matchpoint pairs game.

## A. Playing standard carding:

- Partner leads the ♦ A, usually from A-K-x.
- Standard attitude and count (high to encourage or show an even number).
- Show attitude when partner leads an honor.

## B. Playing the non-standard carding in use at the table:

- Partner leads the ♦ K, showing the ace (or shortness).
- Upside-down attitude and count (high to discourage or show an odd number).
- Give count when partner leads an honor.

The opening lead wins the trick, and partner cashes the other top diamond honor. Partner now leads the ♥ A.

How should we defend?

**Board 11**  
South Deals  
None Vul

Carding -- Solution

		♠ 10 6 3	
		♥ Q 7 6	
		♦ J 10 2	
		♣ A K Q 10	
♠ 9 8 5			♠ J 4
♥ A 9 8 5			♥ J 3 2
♦ A K 8 6			♦ Q 5 3
♣ 4 2			♣ J 9 8 5 3
		♠ A K Q 7 2	
		♥ K 10 4	
		♦ 9 7 4	
		♣ 7 6	
West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	
4 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♦ K			

An important consideration in signaling is to tell partner what they *clearly* want to know, rather than the count, attitude, or suit preference that would normally apply. After taking two diamonds, partner cashes the ♥ A: they desperately want to know which red suit to lead, to try to take a fourth trick before the clubs get at it!

On the ♥ A, we want to scream YAHPRAX.\* Since that's not allowed, we have to resort to a card signal. No matter what our carding would usually be on the lead of the ♥ A, attitude applies now. Holding the ♦ Q (or a doubleton), but not the ♥ K, we play our most discouraging heart.

A. Playing standard carding:

- Partner leads the ♦ A, usually from A-K-x.
- Standard attitude and count (high to encourage or show an even number).
- Show attitude when partner leads an honor.

We encourage partner to continue in diamonds, playing the ♦ 5 (high) and then the ♦ 3 (low). Partner does not know the count in diamonds -- declarer may be ruffing the third diamond. Wise partner cashed the third winner, in case we have the ♥ K.

On the ♥ A, we play the ♥ 2 -- nice to be blessed with the perfect card! Both our signals sink in, and partner leads a diamond to set the contract. No big deal -- this is an easy application of standard carding.

B. Playing the non-standard carding actually in use at the table:

- Partner leads the ♦ K, showing the ace (or shortness).
- Upside-down attitude and count (high to discourage or show an odd number).
- Give count when partner leads an honor.

We show an odd number of cards in diamonds, playing the ♦ 5 (high) and then the ♦ 3 (low). Partner does not know who has the ♦ Q, so cashes the ♥ A. We play the ♥ J, our yaphrax; and partner leads a diamond to set the contract. OOPS! The ♥ 3 (high = odd or discouraging) failed at the table. Play the highest affordable card.

\* Over 50 years ago, Bob Ewen suggested in *Opening Leads* that we could agree on a special word such as "yaphrax" to mean, "lead a diamond." Since that was as illegal then as now, he and we use other methods.