

AUDREY GRANT'S BETTER BRIDGE: HELPFUL HINTS

INVERTED MINOR-SUIT RAISE CONVENTION: ALERT PROCEDURE

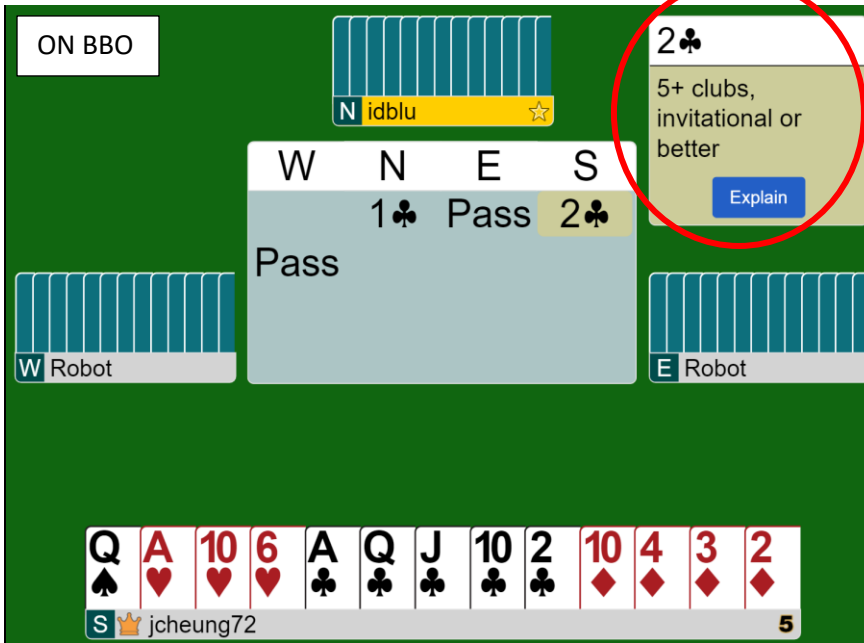
Many partnerships agree to use the Inverted Minor convention to handle weak, invitational, and forcing minor-suit raises. Since the raises to the two level and the three level are “inverted” from their standard meanings, the Inverted Minor bids are alertable.

In face-to-face games, the partner of the bidder alerts the bid. However, the procedure is different when playing online. *The bidder self-alerts – but must do so BEFORE the bid is made.* Here’s an example of how to correctly alert an Inverted Minor bid on BBO and in face-to-face games.

The screenshots show a bridge game in progress. North (N) has bid 1♣ and East (E) has passed. South (S) is considering a bid. The hand for South is: ♠ Q, ♥ A, ♥ 10, ♥ 6, ♣ A, ♣ Q, ♣ J, ♣ 10, ♣ 2, ♦ 10, ♦ 4, ♦ 3, ♦ 2. The interface shows the alerting process where the user selects '5+ clubs, invitational or better' and then chooses the 2♣ bid.

1 Partner, North, opens 1♣ and East passes. Sitting South, you have 13 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card club suit. With no four-card major and an unbalanced hand, you can’t bid 3NT. Instead, you can start with an inverted minor-suit raise to 2♣, forcing. However, **before bidding 2♣**, you need to alert and explain the bid. Simply type in the description of the 2♣ bid on the Alert line.

2 You can now select the 2♣ bid.



3 After bidding 2♣, the opponents will see a pop-up box with your alerted bid and explanation. Partner, North, will not see it.

The auction proceeds.

FACE-TO-FACE GAMES: ALERT PROCEDURE

In face-to-face games, the bidder does not self-alert. Instead, the partner of the bidder alerts the bid.

In the above auction, when South responds 2♣, North needs to immediately say “Alert.” However, North does not offer an explanation unless asked by West, the opponent who is next in turn to bid. If asked, North could simply state something like: “2♣ shows at least five-card club support and invitational or better values.”

The auction proceeds.

For further questions about rules and procedures, please email Martin Hunter, Better Bridge Game Director: martinhunter@rogers.com