

STRONG JUMP SHIFTS

by Maritha

Strong Jump Shifts can be very helpful if used in a disciplined way. Responder makes a strong jump shift in only 3 situations:

- 1) a Solid Suit plus opening bid strength
- 2) A good 6-card suit and 18 or 19 HCP
- 3) A good suit plus a big fit with partner.

A **solid suit** is defined as AKQxxxx or AKQJxx. AKQ10xx is not sufficient. You expect to take 6 tricks in your suit even if partner has a singleton. If you jump shift and then jump to game on the next round [1C-P-2S-P-3C-P-4S], you show the good suit, but no slam interest, e.g., AKQxxxx x Jx Kxx. If you jump shift and make a simple rebid of your suit on the next round [1C-P-2S-P-2NT-P-3S], you show a solid suit with slam interest, e.g., AKQJxx AQx xx Qx. If you jump in a new suit on your rebid [1D-P-2H-P-2NT-P-4C], you show a solid suit, singleton in the second suit, and a minimum jump shift, e.g., xx AKQJxxx Qxx x

The second type of strong jump shift requires:

- 1) a 6-card suit headed by 2 of the top 3 honors
- 2) a stopper in each unbid suit so that responder can bid NT if opener does not
- 3) 18-19 HCP
- 4) no singleton

Example: Kx KQ9xxx AQ10 Ax

The **third type of strong jump shift**, responder has a good suit plus a good fit with partner.

- 1) With 5/4/2/2 distribution, responder needs a minimum of a great 14 HCP, e.g., 1C-P-2S AQ10xx xx Kx KQ10x
- 2) If responder jump shifts and then bids a new suit, his second bid shows a singleton with 4 card support for opener's suit: 1C-P-2S-P-3C-P-3D AK10xx Kxx x AQJx
- 3) A highly distributional jump shift could have as few as a fabulous 10 or 11 HCP. Consider: 1C-P-2H with responder holding: x AK109x xx K10xxx. If Opener has as little as:xxx Qx Axx Axxxxx, slam is very likely.

Opener's Rebids

It is understood that the contract will end up in NT, the suit opened, or the suit in which Responder jumped. Therefore, Opener should not be bidding a new suit. Emphasis is on:

1. to raise if possible
2. to rebid his/her own good suit
3. to rebid NT if appropriate
4. to show a concentration of strength

Examples: 1C-P-2H-P Bid 3H with xxx Kxx AJx KQxx

1C-P-2H-P. Bid 3C with Kxx xx Qxx AQJxx (better than bidding 2NT because clubs are excellent and diamond stopper is iffy.)

1C-P-2H-P. Bid 2NT with KJx Jx KQ10 Kxxxx or Qxxx xx KQJ KQ10x--Spades too weak to bid

1C-P-2H-P. Bid 3D to show a concentration of strength with Qxxx x AKJ QJxxx