

Showing Support in a Competitive Auction

Jump Raises in Competition

All jump raises in competition are preemptive. An opening bid of 3♥ is a preemptive bid showing length in hearts with a weak hand. The principle behind preemptive bids, other than to tell our partner about the nature of our hand, is to take room away from the opponents, giving them less space to communicate.

The same principle also applies when your partner opens the bidding and Right Hand Opponent (RHO) makes a competitive bid. The competitive bid from RHO reveals their intent to compete for the contract. If you have a weak hand with a known 9 card fit (or more) with partner, you should jump raise them. Your message is "Partner, I have a weak hand, and length in your suit, and I want to interfere with the opponent's ability to communicate.

Jump Raise in Comp is Preemptive

Your partner opens the bidding 1♠, RHO interjects with 2♥ or a takeout double, and you hold the following hands:

♠ AJ97	♠ 9873	♠ K8762
♥ 7	♥ 10732	♥ 4
♦ 876543	♦ 3	♦ 108763
♣ 65	♣ Q542	♣ Q9

With hand one and two jump raise partner to 3♠. With hand three bid 4♠. By jump raising partner's suit in a competitive auction, you make life uncomfortable for the opponents, while revealing my weak hand with lengthy support.

Hence, if jump raises in competition are to be for preemptive type hands only, we will need a way to show a good hand with support and 10+ points.

Cue-bid the Opponents Suit

Partner opens 1♥, RHO overcalls 2♣ and you hold the following hands:

♠ 73	♠ 32	♠ K762
♥ Q973	♥ AQ32	♥ AQ4
♦ AK83	♦ K73	♦ 108763
♣ Q54	♣ A982	♣ 9

With hand one (above) I would have jumped to 3♥ if RHO had passed. However, RHO did not pass and the auction is now competitive. In a competitive auction a jump raise shows a weak hand. To show a hand that is worth a limit raise (10-12) or better, you have to cue-bid the suit the RHO overcalled. This is how you can show a hand that is worth a limit raise (10-12) or an even better hand such as hand two. With hand two I would also bid 3♣ (a cue-bid of the opponent's suit). With hand four 3♣ is also my choice of bids as I evaluate the strength of this hand to be 11-12 points.

Truscott 2NT (Also referred to as Jordan 2NT)

If RHO competes with a takeout double, you can use Truscott 2NT to show a limit raise or better. Partner opens the bidding with 1♠, RHO makes a takeout double and you hold the following hands:

♠ Q1094	♠ Q873	♠ K8762
♥ A7	♥ 32	♥ Q4
♦ KQ84	♦ AKQ3	♦ A863
♣ 65	♣ A42	♣ K9

With all three hands you can bid Truscott 2NT. Because you are in competition you cannot jump raise to show your good hand as 3♠ or 4♠ would be preemptive. So if RHO competes with a takeout double, you can use Truscott 2NT to show your trump support and a hand worth a limit raise (10-12) or better (13+).

So there you have it. Practically everyone who is experienced, play that a jump raise in competition is preemptive. The merits of this approach are plenty.

If all jump raises in comp are preemptive, then we have to have a way to show hands with support and 10+ points. Thus, we use Truscott 2NT over a takeout double and a cue-bid of the opponent's overcalled suit to show support.

Redouble

The redouble after RHO doubles partner's opening suit bid, remains the same. Generally the redouble denies a fit, shows 10+ points and a willingness to penalize the opponents if they land in the wrong contract.

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In the following hands, with no one vulnerable you are sitting S. It's your bid?

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Dbl.	?	
♠9842	♠Q983	♠54	♠Q43
♥5	♥A54	♥AQ54	♥A973
♦J75	♦A764	♦QJ104	♦83
♣A432	♣J6	♣KQ10	♣J872
_____	_____	_____	_____

In the following hands, with no one vulnerable you are sitting S. It's your bid?

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	2 ♦	?	
♠6	♠54	♠Q53	♠AQ
♥J1094	♥96	♥AQ82	♥KQ876
♦J93	♦AK832	♦83	♦A756
♣A763	♣K73	♣A872	♣92
_____	_____	_____	_____

In the following hands, both are vulnerable, and you are sitting S. It is your bid?

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Dbl.	?	
♠K987	♠A987	♠98752	♠982
♥9	♥Q973	♥5	♥AQ8
♦7432	♦AK9	♦92	♦KJ9
♣9873	♣72	♣J10763	♣QJ82
_____	_____	_____	_____