

ROMAN JUMPS

We have finally arrived. The defense against weak two bids to show two suited hands which truly works is Roman Jumps. Let us summarize the entire approach.

A cue bid of the weak two bid suit asks for a stopper in that suit. The Cue Bidder will have a good hand, usually with a long solid (or semi-solid) suit which will be a source of tricks. When the Advancer holds a stopper in the suit of the weak two bid, he bids three notrump without worry, for the Cue Bidder will hold many tricks and simply lack a stopper in the suit of the opponents.

When the Advancer does not hold a stopper, he bids in the cheapest suit, and allows the Cue Bidder to correct to his long suit. As in the example previously mentioned: 2♥ - 3♥ - Pass - 3♠, does not show a spade suit. This writer has, in fact, declared four spades in this exact auction when he bid his doubleton and was raised by the Cue Bidder who held seven solid spades.

Jump overcalls show specific two suited hands. The jump overcaller will hold the suit in which he has jumped, and the next available suit, excluding the suit of the opening weak two bid. After an opening bid of two hearts, for example, these are the suits shown by a jump overcall:

- 1) A jump to three spades shows spades and clubs.
- 2) A jump to four clubs shows clubs and diamonds.
- 3) A jump to four diamonds shows diamonds and spades.

Note that there is no ambiguity regarding the suits that the jump overcall has shown. Note also that it is possible for the Advancer to get out cheaply in a minor suit when he holds a poor hand and the jump overcall shows both minor suits.

The Roman Jump overcall promises at least five-five distribution with a good hand. It is rare when the jump overcaller holds the hand he has promised, and his side will be too high or without a fit in which to play. Of the tools to be used to show two suited hands when an opponent has opened with a weak two bid, this is the one that works. We recommend it highly.