

Picture Bids

Change Log:

A Picture Bid is a jump bid in a suit that has previously been bid in a 2/1 sequence where both hands are unlimited. In a 2/1 auction, a picture jump announces, "My trump support is excellent" and "my own suit is good" . When a jump below game is available, the jump below game shows one or more outside controls. A jump to game always denies an outside control.

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/21-auctions-fast-arrival-vs-picture-bidding/>
<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/more-about-picture-jumps-and-fast-arrival/>
<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/fast-arrival-and-picture-jumps-the-3nt-slam-try/>

The goal of using Picture Bids is to provide a very clear description when consuming bidding space in a game forcing auction, and to provide a negative inference on suit quality when a picture jump is not used. Both assist constructive auctions.

Rules:

1. Fast Arrival applies opposite limited hands
2. Picture Jumps apply opposite unlimited hands
3. A Picture Jump to game always denies control of an unbid suit.
When responder holds a stronger hand with great support, his options are to splinter, or to make a simple raise then bid strongly afterwards.
4. A Picture Jump below game always shows control of an unbid suit.
5. The Picture Jump concept also applies to jump rebids in your own suit, as well as to jump raises. A Picture Jump rebid promises a suit with at most 1 loser.
6. Picture Jumps do not apply to rebids in NT. Natural jumps in NT show extra values, and a hand that is NT-oriented.
1♠-2♣; 2♠-3NT: Responder is showing approximately 15-17 HCP. His values are mostly in lower, softer honors with both unbid suits well-stopped.

Trump Quality

How Strong Are The Trumps Shown by a Picture Jump?

Experts disagree on the trump quality requirements for Picture Jump raises. The big issues are:

Should a picture jump guarantee 4-card support?

Gumperz: For me, 3-card support with 3 of top 5 or any 2 or top 3 is fine.

Should a picture jump promise top (trump) honors? With only 3-card support, being rich in top honors is important. With 4-card support, it is less of an issue.

Picture Bids in Support of a Minor

A picture jump to 4 of a minor always shows slam interest. It promises outside control(s) as well as excellent trumps and a good suit of your own.

A jump to 5m promises a freakish hand with sparse high cards and a huge fit. With a less freakish hand, you would want to explore 3NT. Only a hand with 5-5+ distribution can be so confident that 5m will play better than 3NT.

Picture Bids vs. Jacoby 2NT

When responder has 4 card trump support and a good outside suit, the responder can elect to use Jacoby 2NT to ask about opener's hand and hide their source of tricks, or can choose to inform partner about the good fit and the source of tricks using a Picture Bid sequence. Using a Picture Bid does not deny 4 card support.

Implications for Non-Jump Sequences

Non-jump raises suggest that responder lacks exceptional trump support, has a mediocre suit, or both.

Summary

After a 2/1 sequence, any jump raise or jump rebid of a suit is a Picture Jump.

Jump Raises

- A jump raise promises 3+ trumps and 2+ honors, plus a good 5+ card suit of your own.
- A jump raise below game promises 1 or more outside controls.
- A jump raise to game denies an outside control.

Suit Jump Rebids

- All jump rebids of a suit promise a 1-loser or solid suit, i.e., a suit that will normally play for at most one loser opposite a void.
- A jump rebid to game denies an outside control in an unbid suit.
- A jump rebid below game promises one or more outside controls in unbid suits..

Note:

Here is a similar treatment by Wolpert and Weinstein where a raise to 2M after a 2/1 demands patterning out and a jump to 3M suggests a source of tricks and demands cue bidding.

Wolpert: Example auction: 1♠-2♣; 2♥- (2♠ vs 3♠)

2♠ demands partner to shape out their hand. Partner should bid 2NT with 5422, 3♣ with 5413, 3♦ with 5431, 3♥ with 5-5, 3♠ with 6-4.

3♠ would skip the shape information, saying i have a hand type that doesn't need to know your shape and I just want you to cue-bid. It doesn't give any special information to partner, just demands a cue-bid.

Weinstein:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/bbo-juniors-club-2/>

After 1♠-2♦; 2♥: with KTxx x AKJTxx xx

Bid 3♠- Assuming you are playing 2/1 game force, you can now bid 2♠ which would show 3+ spades and at least GF values. But I prefer 3♠, showing an slam-invitational raise with a source of tricks. A long time ago the great Paul Soloway told me, "Jumping to 3♠ here sounds good to the ear." In other words, 3♠ is a strong slam-going move that signals to partner : "Wake up, we are going slamming." 3♠ does not promise 4 trumps, just 3, but it shows an excellent hand interested in slam, a source of tricks in your first suit (else you would rebid 2♠ to elicit more information about partner's shape), and practically demands a cue-bid. If you are interested in more information on this treatment, Gavin wrote an article on Two Ways to Support:

Wolpert:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/21-two-ways-to-support/>

After 1♠-2♣; 2♥:

Opener thus far in the auction has shown 5+♠ and 4+♥. When responder supports at the two level (bids 2♣), opener should continue describing their distribution. Here is what opener's next bid means in the example auction (they are all natural):

2N = 5♠ 4♥ 2♦ 2♣

3♣ = 5♠ 4♥ 1♦ 3♣ (or rarely 5♠ 4♥ 0♦ 4♣)

3♦ = 5♠ 4♥ 3♦ 1♣ (or rarely 5♠ 4♥ 4♦ 0♣)

3♥ = 5♠ 5♥

3♠ = 6♠ 4♥ (shows extras if your partnership agrees to rebid your 6 card suit first with a weak hand)

Knowing about partners distribution is crucial information on some deals.

However, on some hands you just want partner to cue-bid. With these hand types we can keep declarer's distribution secret and just ask partner to cue-bid by jumping to 3♠.