Under Jump Shift

The Under Jump Shift is used to show:

    (a) four card support for opener's Major

    (b) 9+ to 12- HCP (limit raise values)

    (c) a singleton or void in a side suit

The responder does this by making a jump shift in the suit immediately below opener's Major (i.e., 3 ♦ for a 1 ♥ opening, 3 ♥ for a 3 ♠ opening). The opener interested in slam may then ask for the shortness by bidding three of the Major suit, or sign off by bidding game directly (one may not sign off in three of the Major because that is the asking bid; this should not be a concern because the fit plus side shortness makes game extremely likely).

In response to the asking bid, responder bids as follows:

Where opener bid Hearts and bid 3 ♥ as the asking bid (i.e., 1 ♥ - pass - 3 ♦ - pass - 3 ♥!)

    (i) 4 ♣ or 4 ♦ = singleton Club or Diamond

    (ii) 4 ♥ = singleton SPADE (you will see why next)

    (iii) 3 ♠ = shortness is a VOID

After 3 ♠, showing a void, the opener may bid 3 NT to ask its location, to which the responder replies:

    1. 4 ♣ or 4 ♦ = void in Clubs or Diamonds

    2. 4 ♥ = void in Spades

Without losing any bidding space, the opener can learn whether the responder has a singleton or void, and where it is located WITHOUT ever losing the ability to sign off in game.

Where the opener bid Spades and bid 3 ♠ as the asking bid (i.e., 1 ♠ - pass – 3 ♥ - pass – 3 ♠):

    (i) 4 ♣, 4 ♦, 4 ♥ = singleton Club, Diamond, or Heart

    (ii) 3 NT = shortness is a VOID

After 3 NT, showing a void, the opener may bid 4 ♣ to ask its location, to which responder replies:

    1. 4 ♦, 4 ♥ = void in Diamonds, Hearts

    2. 4 ♠ = void in Clubs

Notice that the opener never loses the ability to sign off in game, yet can learn whether the

shortness is a singleton or void, and where it is located.

Several examples:

Example 1:

North
♠ AQJ54
♥ AJ
♦ KQ85
♣ 42

South
♠ K632
♥ K762
♦ A975
♣ 5

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥ (1)	Pass
3 ♠ (2)	Pass	4 ♣ (3)	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Showing limit raise and side shortness

(2) Asking location of side shortnes

(3) Showing singleton Club (if void, the responder would have bid 3 ♠)

Using Roman Keycard Blackwood, the partnership finds the 27 HCP slam.

Example 2:

North
♠ AQJ76
♥ AJ
♦ KQ52
♣ 43

South
♠ K843
♥ KQ75
♦ 7
♣ K865

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥ (1)	Pass
3 ♠ (2)	Pass	4 ♦ (3)	Pass

4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Under Jump Shift

(2) Asking bid

(3) Shows shortness in Diamonds causing the opener to sign off in game.

Example 3:

North
♠ 874
♥ KQJ862
♦ AK3
♣ 9

South
♠
♥ A743
♦ QJ87
♣ A8654

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦ (1)	Pass
3 ♥ (2)	Pass	3 ♠ (3)	Pass
3 NT (4)	Pass	4 ♥ (5)	Pass
4 NT (6)	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
7 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Under Jump Shift

(2) Asking bid

(3) Showing that the shortness is a void

(4) Asking location of the void

(5) Showing the void is in Spades

(6) Asking for aces (Note: because the opener knows where the void is located, there can be no confusion when using Blackwood or Key Cards asking bids)