

## Spiral Bids (aka Q & Q)

Consider this common situation: You open a minimum (12-14 HCP) hand with a Minor and your partner, after LHO passes, bids a Major. That Major suit bid is only promising 4 cards, but it may be 5, so as opener with 3 cards in Partners Major you normally can not show support, i.e. 4-cards. What if partner indeed had 5 and an invitational hand or better hand and you a better than minimum hand? If so, you may have missed an 8-card fit and potentially a game bid in the Major. Thanks to Eric Rodwell we have a way around this dilemma. If you have 3-card support for partner's Major you can show support and partner has 2 options: (a) < 10HCP simply pass, your show of minimum hand means you have found at least a 7-card fit and less than game-going points, or; (b) >10 HCP partner can ask for more information about your hand by bidding 2NT. First you may have had better than a minimum hand, and since you now have an agreement that partner will show support with 3 or more cards the response to the "more information" query can include that information as well. Here's how! Minor suits show 3 card support, major suits show 4-card support; lower suits (i.e. ♣ & ♥) show minimum hand and upper suits show better than minimum hand i.e. 15+ HCP. Here's an example: You open 1♣ – P – 1♠ – P; 2♠ – P – 2N – P; ?

3♣ → 3-card support and a minimum hand

3♦ → 3-card support and 15+ HCP

3♥ → 4-card support and a minimum hand

3♠ → 4-card support and 15+ HCP

-3♣ offers the worse case scenario minimum 22 HCP and 7-card fit

**3♠ provides the best case → game going suit and points and possible slam.**