



Adventures in Bridge

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This Week in Bridge

(96) Fit-Showing Jumps

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Level: 5

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General

Jump shifts are used for a variety of different types of hands in a variety of situations. They are used as:

- Strong Jump Shifts
- Weak Jump Shifts
- Invitational Jump Shifts
- Other Conventional Bids
 - Reverse Flannery
 - Unusual Jump Shifts
 - Mixed Raises
 - Limit Raises
 - Game Forcing Raises
 - Bergen Raises
 - Splinters
 - And more...

An agreement that is common amongst expert players (in selected situations) is called *Fit-Showing Jumps*. Unlike many bridge conventions, this one is actually well-named. Let's see how it works.

Fit-Showing Jumps

A *Fit-Showing Jump (FSJ)* is a jump shift that shows a fit for partner and a suit of our own, all in one bid.

There are lots of details that are good to discuss with your partner before playing this convention.

- *How many cards in each suit?*
 - Generally we have at least 9 cards in the two suits. Usually it is 4+card support for partner (4-5 or 4-6+...)
- *How many points should we have?*



- Generally a FSJ shows a limit raise. Some partnerships allow them to be limit raise or better (LR+), but this is a special partnership agreement - discuss this with partner.

- *Example Hand*
 - ♠ K432
 - ♥ 5
 - ♦ KQ876
 - ♣ 974
 - Remember to evaluate your hand – HCP, length points, and shortness points.
- *Do we have a side suit quality requirement?*
 - If you have no honors in your side suit it doesn't make a lot of sense to introduce that suit (unless you are extremely distributional), so most partnerships have some requirements for honors in the side suit.
- *Why is this useful?*
 - By showing a fit, a side suit, and a good hand we allow Opener to evaluate fitting cards, wasted values, double fits, and more... This can allow for effective bidding – especially in competitive auctions.
- *Where do we use FSJ?*
 - FSJ can be used anywhere you and your partner decide you prefer them to other possible jump shift agreements. But there are two common places they are frequently played.
 - Jump Shifts by a Passed Hand - It doesn't make a lot of sense for a passed hand to go jumping around unless it has a new reason to. That is, a fit for the suit we opened.
 - Jump Shifts by Advancer – Advancer frequently is involved in a highly competitive auction. Being able to show all this about their hand in one bid can be very effective.

Conclusion

Fit-Showing Jumps (FSJ) can be an effective tool in communication with partner, but they are not without *danger*. There have been many famous mix-ups with FSJ – FSJ vs. splinters vs. natural bids.

- Is a FSJ only a jump shift or can it be a double jump shift?
- What if a jump shift is to game vs. below game?

There are lots of things to discuss with partner, so adopt these FSJ carefully and in specific situations where you and partner are in clear agreement.