

Fifth Chair



Mini Splinters

A mini splinter is a jump bid such as 1C-1S-3D. Here 3D is the equivalent to raising spades to the 3-level, but shows a singleton diamond, or perhaps void. Since 2D would be a reverse, the bid cannot be misunderstood.

A mini-splinter just shows a 15+ to 18- points, and should not be confused with the regular splinter bid at the 4-level, such as 1C-1S-4D, where you are showing something like 18+ to 20 points with a shortage in diamonds, or 1D-1S-4D shows 4 card spade support with a 6 card diamond suit.

You are therefore limited in how you use a mini-splinter, since 1D-1S-3C would be a natural jump shift. You have to think twice about whether you are showing a natural bid or a mini-splinter.