

Michaels Cue Bid

A cue bid is a bid in the same suit bid as opponent. For example, opponent bids 1♦; you or your partner bid 2♦. This bid should not be used to show strength in opponent's suit.

I have seen beginners "double" the opponent's opening bid (1 level in a suit) because they also have strength in that same suit. This is not the correct use of the double. A double in this situation shows strength in the other 3 suits and weakness in opponent's suit. A double can be used after game level is reached by opponents. Then it is meant as penalty and you can use it when you have strength in the suit of the opponent's final contract, but not after just one bid by opponent.

Usually, you will pass when you have strength in opponent's suit with just opening points and not much more. Instead of bidding, you sometimes hope to put them down. It can be frustrating when you have to pass in a situation like this, but sometimes it's the best thing you can do.

Please read the lesson on the Simple Cue Bid before trying to incorporate Michaels cue bid into your bidding strategies.

A Cue Bid occurs when a player bids the same suit as opponent. It has a very special meaning and **you need to be very alert of all bids at the table or you might miss it and think the bidder is actually bidding that suit!**

Important: There can be several different meanings and uses for cue bids, depending on which information you read. Some of these bids can be very complicated. It is important that both you and your partner understand what is meant by the bids you use. This is called "partnership agreement."

Michaels Cue Bid shows 5 cards (or more) in two suits, one of which must be a major. Michaels cue bid is **forcing** – Partner must respond unless there is an intervening bid.

Be careful! Before deciding to use Michaels cue bid, consider whether it is better to overcall in a 5-card suit instead. Sometimes it may be better to bid one of your majors, especially if you can do so at the 1 Level. Cue bids are generally used when you have 6-11 HCPs. As a beginner, you may choose not to use cue bids until you have more experience but, even so, it is helpful to know what it means if the opponent uses a cue bid.

If opponent opens 1♣ or 1♦, you can use Michaels cue bid to show 5 cards in both majors and 6-11 pts. You would do this by bidding 2♣ after opponent's 1♣ bid or 2♦ after opponent's 1♦ bid.

If opponent bid 1♥ or 1♠, you can cue bid his/her suit by bidding the same major at the 2 Level, if you have 5 cards in the other major and 5 cards in one of the

minors. (Your partner will not know which of the minors but, with enough points to raise, s/he can request that you identify it by bidding 2NT after a Cue Bid.)

Example 1: Opponent opened the bidding with 1♠. This is your hand (7 HCPs):

Your bid: 2♠ (Cue Bid) indicating two 5-card suits, one in the other major (hearts) and one in an unspecified minor. This is a forcing bid and partner must bid unless there is an intervening bid by opponent.



Example 2: Opponent opened the bidding with 1♥. This is your hand:

You have 9 HCPs. A cue bid is better than a double because a double would imply that you have 12+ points. If you count length, you do have 11 points. Which bid is better?

A cue bid of 2♥ better describes the hand, because if you doubled instead, your partner might bid Diamonds if s/he has 4 diamonds and just 3 spades. This way s/he knows you have 5 spades.



Because your hand will become Dummy, you could also consider Dummy Points – which now brings the count up to 13 pts (count 4 for the void and no points for the length in spades or clubs).

Example 3:

Opponent opened the bidding with 1♥. This is your hand:

You have 14 HCPs, plus 2 for length. Keep in mind that the Queen of spades may not be worth much because it could easily fall to the opponent's Ace or King of spades. This hand is too strong for a cue bid. Also, you must have 5 of the other major (spades), to cue bid Hearts. Your bid is 2♦, the higher-ranking minor (5 cards in each minor).



Example 4:

Opponent opened the bidding 1♣.

This is your hand:

You have 9 HCPs; plus length, you could count an additional 2 points. This gives you 11 points.

With this hand, cue bid 2♣. By cue bidding a minor suit, you are promising your partner 6-11

points and 5 cards in both majors. If opponent opened 1♦, you would cue bid 2♦.

By cue bidding opponent's clubs or diamonds, you are promising 5 of both majors.



Note: When you cue bid or double an opponent's bid, your partner is forced to bid if there is no intervening bid by the Advancer (opponent's partner). So you do not know how many points your partner has. Your partner may have 0 points. Sometimes the opponents will wait and see what your partner bids before bidding again. It gives them more information about the two hands and they know they will get another chance to bid again. If Partner has a very strong hand, s/he can jump bid in the appropriate suit.