

CUEBIDS

DIRECT CUEBIDS:

Partner opens the bidding and your right hand opponent preempts. After opponent's 2-level preempt, with a limit raise* or better for partner's suit, you cuebid opponents suit. DO NOT JUMP TO GAME WITH AN OPENING HAND. A jump to game is preemptive value. If partner merely bids 3 of suit, with limit raise you pass; with opening hand you can bid game.

An example of a preemptive 4-level bid is: xxx, KJxxx, x, Kxxx after bidding as follows:

1H—3C—4H

With limit raise after 3-level preempt, bid 3H inviting to game. With a full opening hand, cuebid 4C . If partner cuebids 4D and you hold the Ace of clubs, you will want to investigate for slam. If partner directly bids 4H, bidding ceases unless you have a really great hand.

Partner's hand: Axx, AJ10xx, AQxx, x; opponent bids 3D; you hold K10x, KQxx, Kx, Axxx; cuebid 4C; partner should now bid 4D on the way to game. This should now allow you to get to at least 6H, making 7.

CUEBIDS AFTER PARTNER'S OVERCALL:

After partner makes an overcall, if you have a limit raise (at least 10 highcard points) or better, you can cuebid the opening bidder's suit to inquire how good is your partner's overcall. If partner has a minimum overcall, he merely bids 2 of his suit. With a good overcall, he bids another suit or 2NT if he has controls in opponent's suit. Following a double by opening bidder, with minimum hand he passes. With good hand he bids another suit or 2NT with controls in opponent's suit. With a 6-card suit and at least 11 highcard points, he can bid 2 of his suit.

If your right-hand opponent also puts in a bid, I find it simpler to just cuebid the opening bidder's suit. Especially if the bidding goes 1C by opening bidder, 1H overcall by your partner, 1S by your right-hand opponent and you bid 2S, I would take this as your having a good spade suit. Your right-hand opponent could have 4 nothing spades. If you partner does not bid and you bid 2S, then you have a good spade suit and a good hand.

CUEBID AFTER PARTNER'S OVERCALL WITH A GOOD HAND AND SUIT OF YOUR OWN:

If partner overcalls opponent's opening bid, it is generally better to play that bidding a new suit is non-forcing. Therefore, if you have a good hand and a suit of your own, cuebid the opponent's suit and then bid your suit. This should be forcing at least 1 round for your partner.

For instance, the bidding goes 1C by opponents, 1D by your partner and either pass or 1S by your right-hand opponent, and you hold: Kx, AQJxxx, xx, Axx, you should bid 2C and then 2H or 3H depending on how bidding proceeds. Partner should bid accordingly. You do not have to jump to indicate a good hand.

Doubling in pass-out seat and the introducing a new suit is not the same as doubling and originating (18 plus in a direct seat). It merely says you have an opening hand or better.

CUEBID AFTER A MICHAELS OVERCALL:

Partner opens 1C, opponent makes a 2C Michaels cuebid—

2H or 2S by you suggests a limit raise or better with a stop in the respective suit. This can help you get to a NT contract which otherwise might be difficult to achieve.

- Limit raise should be at least 10 high-card points, or a really good 9 with great distribution.