

# Your choice: Thursdays at 9:30am or 4:15pm

- **Jan 8: Filling out the Convention Card**
- **Jan 15: Signaling (Carding), Etiquette, Procedures & Leads**
- **Jan 22: Bergen raises**
- **Jan 29: Jacoby 2NT**
- **Feb 5: New Minor Forcing**
- **Feb 12: Recap Negative, Takeout + Support Doubles**
- **Feb 19: 4<sup>th</sup> Suit Forcing**
- **Feb 26: Recap Rules of 7, 11, 15, 17, 22 + more**
- **Mar 5: Recap Cue Bids**

## **What is a cue bid?**

A bid in an **opponents** suit that shows specific information about your hand.

There are several kinds of cue bids. Today, I'm going to show you just 3:

- Western Cue – looking for 3NT**
- Limit Raise – looking for a major fit**
- Michaels – shows 2 suits**

# Western Cue

A 3-level cue bid that asks partner to bid **3NT with a stopper in the opponents' suit.**

Opener:      ♠ AT                      ♥ JT2                      ♦ AK3                      ♣ AQT87  
Responder: ♠ K8652              ♥ A3                      ♦ J842                      ♣ 93

Opener	Advancer	Responder	Interferer
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♥ (1)	Pass	3NT (2)	

(1) 3♥ is a Western cue bid. Opener has a strong hand but lacks spade support and wants to probe for 3NT. Partner's first priority is to bid 3NT with a ♥ stopper.

(2) 3NT shows a ♥ stopper.

Opener:    ♠ K4                    ♥ 942                    ♦ AKT9872    ♣ K  
 Responder: ♠ AQ52            ♥ T87                    ♦ J3                    ♣ AJ92

Opener	Advancer	Responder	Interferer
1♦	Pass	1♠	2♥
3♦	Pass	3♥ (1)	Pass
4♦ (2)	All Pass		

(1) 3♥ is a Western cue bid. 3NT is a logical contract if opener has a ♥ stopper  
 (2) 4♦ denies a ♥ stopper and denies ♠ support

# Western cue bids **only occur at the 3-level**

Opener:    ♠ 96                    ♥ KQ943            ♦ A87            ♣ K92  
Responder: ♠ A52                ♥ A T 8 7           ♦ K J T 3           ♣ 8 3

Opener	Advancer	Responder	Interferer
1♥	1♠	2♠ (1)	

(1) 2♠ is a **cue bid limit raise** or better in ♥s, **not** Western Cue

# Western cue bids are “off” if you’ve agreed on a major suit fit

Opener:               ♠AT                               ♥KJT5432   ♦AQ   ♣KJ  
Responder:           ♠543                               ♥A98               ♦KT932   ♣T2

Opener	Advancer	Responder	Interferer
1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠

3♠ (1)

(1) 3♠ shows first-round spade control and slam interest. ♥s have already been agreed as trumps, so this is not a Western cue bid.

# Cue bid limit raise

A cue bid (bidding the opponent's suit) is used to show a limit raise or better in support of a partner's suit, typically indicating 10 or more high card points – **looking for a major suit fit.**

# Cue Bid limit raise example

Opener:                ♠A K 9 6 5    ♥7 4    ♦A 8 7    ♣K 9 2

Responder:           ♠Q J T 7    ♥K 9 5    ♦K Q T 3    ♣8 3

Opener    Advancer    Responder    Interferer

1♠            2♥            3♥ (1)

(1) 3♥ is a **cue bid limit raise** or better in spades, **not** a **Western cue bid**.

Neither side vulnerable, your partner opens 1♥, opponent bids 1♠, what do you bid?

- |    |        |        |         |        |
|----|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1. | ♠ 32   | ♥ K32  | ♦ AQ432 | ♣ QT9  |
| 2. | ♠ AJ2  | ♥ K32  | ♦ QJT9  | ♣ 432  |
| 3. | ♠ AJ2  | ♥ K2   | ♦ QJT9  | ♣ KT98 |
| 4. | ♠ 2    | ♥ KQT9 | ♦ QJT9  | ♣ QT98 |
| 5. | ♠ 2    | ♥ KQT9 | ♦ AQJT  | ♣ KJT9 |
| 6. | ♠ AJT9 | ♥ QJ   | ♦ AJT9  | ♣ JT9  |

# Michaels is a Direct Cue Bid

of the opponents **opening** suit bid to show **5+ card length in 2 other suits.**

Point counts vary by partnership agreement. Some players bid Michaels with weakish (10 or less) or strong (16+) hands and bid the highest suit first with an intermediate hand.

**Watch the vulnerability!**

# Michaels cue bids are forcing but not alertable

## Overcall

2♣ over 1♣

2♦ over 1♦

2♥ over 1♥

2♠ over 1♠

## Meaning

5+♥ **and** 5+♠

5+♥ **and** 5+♠

5+♠ **and** 5+♣ **or** 5+♦

5+♥ **and** 5+♣ **or** 5+♦

## Your RHO opens 1♥, what do you bid?

- |    |        |     |         |     |
|----|--------|-----|---------|-----|
| 1. | ♠KJT98 | ♥2  | ♦KT987  | ♣32 |
| 2. | ♠KJT98 | ♥-  | ♦AKQJT9 | ♣A  |
| 3. | ♠KJT98 | ♥43 | ♦AQ987  | ♣2  |

## Your RHO opens 1♣, what do you bid?

- |    |        |        |     |    |
|----|--------|--------|-----|----|
| 4. | ♠KJT98 | ♥KJT98 | ♦32 | ♣2 |
| 5. | ♠AKJT9 | ♥AKJT9 | ♦32 | ♣2 |
| 6. | ♠AKT98 | ♥AKT98 | ♦32 | ♣2 |

# Responses to Michaels 2♣

- 2♦ Natural, showing a very good ♦ suit
- 2♥ Non-forcing sign off
- 2♠ Non-forcing sign off
- 3♣ Artificial and shows game or slam interest in ♥s or ♠s
- 3♦ Rare!
- 3♥ Preemptive, usually with 4 ♥
- 3♠ Preemptive, usually with 4 ♠
- 3NT A natural sign off

# Responses to Michaels

## 2♦

- 2♥ Non-forcing sign off
- 2♠ Non-forcing sign off
- 3♣ Natural, showing a very good ♣ suit
- 3♦ Artificial, shows game or slam interest in ♥s or ♠s
- 3♥ Preemptive, usually with 4 ♥
- 3♠ Preemptive, usually with 4 ♠
- 3NT A natural sign off

# Responses to Michaels 2♥

- 2♠ Non-forcing sign off
- 2NT Asks the overcaller to bid his minor at the 3-level
- 3♣ Natural, showing a very good ♣ suit
- 3♦ Natural, showing a very good ♦ suit
- 3♥ Artificial and shows game or slam interest in ♠s or a minor
- 3♠ Preemptive, usually with 4 ♠
- 3NT A natural sign off

# Responses to Michaels 2♠

- 2NT      Asks the overcaller to bid his minor at the 3-level
- 3♣      Natural, showing a very good ♣ suit
- 3♦      Natural, showing a very good ♦ suit
- 3♥      A natural sign off
- 3♠      Artificial and shows game or slam interest in ♥s or a minor
- 3NT      A natural sign off

# This is the last class for the moment...

I will be starting another series of classes on June 25.

There will be flyers at the Bridge Club, and I will send an email with details nearer the time.

Topics will include:

Blackwood & Gerber, Inverted Minors, Balancing  
as well as recaps of Bergen, Drury, Unusual  
2NT/Michaels, Bids after opponents NT

**AND I welcome suggestions.**