

Fifth Chair



Michaels Cue Bid

A. General The Michaels Cue bid is used to show a 2 suited hand. It occurs when OUR side bids a suit the opponents previously bid, at our side's first opportunity to bid.

B. Requirements for a Michaels Cue Bid

1. Two unbid suits, each at least 5 cards in length (Note: if we have two 5 card MINORs, we use the unusual No Trump, not Michaels)
2. Michaels Cue Bid is used on hands that contain 6 to 11 HCP or 16 or more HCP. With hands that fall between this set of points, bid the higher ranking suit first, and if bidding permits, the lower ranking hand, unless the lower ranking second suit is longer. (NOTE: with 6-11 HCP, your HCP should be concentrated in your suit AND you should be careful of the vulnerability.)
3. Made at your side's first opportunity to Bid, or at your first opportunity to bid if partner has previously passed
4. Cannot be made if opponents have bid two suits.

C. Michaels Cue Bid to show both Majors: The auction starts: 1c by them and we bid 2c, this is a michaels cue bid. The most popular current usage is that this shows both major suits, spades and hearts.

1D-2D shows the same hand, both majors.

Examples: Your right hand opponent opens 1C or 1D, and you hold:

- a) Axxxx KQxxx xx x Bid 2 of minor that opponent bid.
- b) AKxxx KQxxx Ax x Bid 2 of minor that opponent bid.

Your right hand opponent opens 1C or 1D, and you hold:

- c) AKxxx KQxxx Jx x With 13 hcp overcall 1S and then rebid
2 hearts if there is room to do so.

D. Michaels Cue Bid to Show One Minor and the Unbid Major: The cue bid of a major suit, as in 1H 2H, or 1S 2S shows the other major, and one minor suit.

Examples: Your right hand opponent opens 1H, and you hold:

- a) AKxxx x Qxxxx xx Bid 2 Hearts

b) Kxxxx A xxxxx Qx Pass (Your points are not concentrated in your suits)

c) KQJxx x AX AQxxx Bid 2 Hearts

E. Deciding whether a Cue Bid is Michaels When is a first round cue bid NOT Michaels? A first round cue bid is not Michaels, when the opponents have bid two suits. Then the cue bid has a natural meaning. In the auction: 1c-p-1h-2c; the 2 club bid means clubs, since the opponents have bid two suits. However, in the auction: 1d-p-1NT-2d; the 2diamond bid is Michaels showing both majors, because the opponents have bid only one suit. Also in the auction, 1c p p 2c or 1D p p 2d, the 2c/2d bid is Michaels.

Remember it is Michaels, IF the opponents have bid only one suit, AND partner has not bid, or has passed AND it is our first chance to bid the opponents suit.

F. Responding to a Michaels Cue Bid of 2C or 2D:

1. A response of 2H or 2S indicates that there is not a possibility of game, if partner has a weak Michaels Cue Bid hand. (If you have either 2 cards or 3 cards in each major, bid hearts, the lower of the two suits. If you have **unequal** length in hearts and spades, bid your longer major. If you have four cards in each major, bid your stronger major)

2. Bid 3 of opponent's minor, continuing the cuebid, if you have a hand that can make game if partner is at the top of his weak Michaels Cue Bid. If partner is at the bottom of his point count range, he should bid Hearts, to give you the choice of suits.

G. Responding to a Michaels Cue Bid of 2H or 2S

1. If there is NOT a possibility of game, but you have 3 cards in partner's major suit, bid the major at the cheapest level.

2. If you lack 3 cards in partner's major, AND have at least 3 cards in each minor, bid 2NT. This bid requires partner to bid his minor suit.

H. Defense Against a Michaels Cue Bid

1. Double: You have a willingness to penalty double their suits; the type of hand that you would normally redouble after a takeout double of partner's opening bid.

2. Simple Raise of Opener's Minor suit; non forcing.

3. 2H or 2S This shows values in the suit bid, at least 10 High Card Points, and invites No Trump, if partner has the other major suit stopped.

4. 2NT or 3NT both are natural bids.

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Michaels Cue Bid Quiz:

1. Right Hand Opponent opens 1C. What is your bid with the following hands?

a) AKxxx QJ10XX xx x _____

b) AKxxx KQxxx Kx x _____

c) AKxxx KQxxx Axx void _____

c) Qxxxx Jxxxx xx A _____

2. Opponent on your left opens 1C. Partner says 2C. How do you respond to partner with the following hands?

a) xx Qx KQxxx Kxxx _____

b) Kxx Qx Axxx Qxxx _____

c) Kxx Axx KQxx Axx _____

Answers to Michaels Cue Bid Quiz

1. A 2C - You have a weak Michaels Cue Bid

B 1S - You have an opening hand, just bid both suits

C 2C - You have the strong Michaels Cue Bid

D Pass - You have only 1 quick trick, not even in your suits

2. A 2D. Partner might pass 2 diamonds, with diamond support, or bid his longest major suit.

B 2S You are willing to play this hand there. If partner has the strong Michaels Cue Bid hand, and bids 3S, you would go to 4 spades with 11 hcp. The club queen might not help you, so I don't bid 3S immediately.

C 3C This bid is forcing on partner to further describe his hand. If partner just bids a major, you know he has the lower hcp for his Michaels Cue bid. With this hand I would then raise to 4 in his suit.