

# Cue bid shows a limit raise or better (10+HCP) – Ron Kral

Vul None South deals Lead: ♠ A	♠ J5 ♥ Q65 ♦ A74 ♣ AQ1073	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q63 ♥ J94 ♦ 10862 ♣ K62	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥<sup>1</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠<sup>2</sup></td> <td>???</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><sup>1</sup> Routine opening bid  <sup>2</sup> Routine overcall  <sup>3</sup> Now what?? How do I show this GOOD hand?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥<sup>1</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠<sup>2</sup></td> <td>2♠<sup>3</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥<sup>4</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥<sup>5</sup></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p><sup>3</sup> Partner, I have 10+HCP <b>and</b> heart support  <sup>4</sup> If all you have is 10 HCP, we don't have game  <sup>5</sup> I have an opening hand too, we belong in game</p>	West	North	East	South				1♥ <sup>1</sup>	1♠ <sup>2</sup>	???	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	West	North	East	South				1♥ <sup>1</sup>	1♠ <sup>2</sup>	2♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	Pass
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♠ AK974 ♥ 73 ♦ J93 ♣ J95	♠ 1082 ♥ AK1082 ♦ KQ5 ♣ 84																																												

The use of a cue-bid of the opponent's suit to show a good hand (10 or more HCP) with support for your partner's suit is an important part of any bidding system. Without this, partner is always guessing whether to stop in a part score, bid game or try for slam. In the above hand, partner opens 1♥ and West overcalls 1♠. North has a good hand. The hand certainly belongs in game, but *may* belong in slam. North starts with a cue-bid of the opponent's suit to see what South has to say. South makes the minimum bid, 3♥, saying he doesn't even want to play game opposite only 10 HCP. South could have bid game directly or made move towards slam. After South shows his minimum, North just settles for game. Note that North/South end up in game ever after the opponent's overcall.

### How the play goes

- 1) West leads A♠ (A from AK).
- 2) East plays the 6 (standard signals showing the Q♠ or a doubleton).
- 3) West cashes the K♠ and leads another spade hoping partner has a doubleton and can over ruff dummy.
- 4) South trumps low in dummy, pulls trump ending in hand and tries the club finesse making 10 or 11 tricks.

	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Losers</u>
Spades	0	2
Hearts	5	0
Diamonds	3	0
Clubs	1 or 2	0 or 1
Ruffs	1	n/a
<b>Total tricks</b>	10 or 11	2 or 3

### Notes

- If South had 15+HCP, he would bid 4♥ right away since he knows the combined assets are 25+HCP.
- If South bids 4♥ and North has a BETTER than limit raise, North can make a move towards slam.
- **IMPORTANT:** If North only bids 2♥ over 1♠, this shows a weak hand (6-9) with **3-card** support. It's "the bid that wasn't made" that's important here.
- If North bids 3♥ it shows a weak hand (0-8) with **4-card** support.
- If North bids 4♥ it shows a weak hand (0-7) with **5-card** support.
- **IMPLICATION: IF PARTNER DOESN'T CUE BID, HE DOESN'T HAVE 10 HCP W/SUPPORT!**
- After the 1♠ overcall, any other suit by an unpassed responder is forcing for one round and denies support.
- The cue-bid is also used by advancer when partner overcalls:

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥

- The 2♥ bid above shows 10+HCP in support of West's 1♠ overcall.
- If you have two cue-bids available to you (eg, the opponents have bid 2 suits), bidding the opponent's lower suit shows 3-card trump support, bidding the opponent's higher suit shows 4+card trump support in addition to the 10+HCPs.