

Michael's Cue Bids¹

- promises a two-suited hand with at least five cards in both suits – absolutely
- no point minimum needed
- absolutely forcing for one round – this asks partner to bid one of the two suits advertised.
- consider vulnerability and partnership agreements
- works well in conjunction with Unusual 2NT
- some partnerships only bid Michael's with weak (11- HCP) or strong (15+ HCP) hands

Basic Michaels Cue Bids

- A **2♣ overcall** of 1♣ shows 5+ hearts and 5+ spades
- A **2♦ overcall** of 1♦ shows 5+ hearts and 5+ spades
- A **2♥ overcall** of 1♥ shows 5+ spades and an unspecified minor (5+ clubs OR diamonds)
- A **2♠ overcall** of 1♠ shows 5+ hearts and an unspecified minor (5+ clubs OR diamonds)

Responses to a 2♣ Cuebid (Hearts and Spades)

- 2♦ is natural, shows a diamond suit (at least good 6 pieces); denies 3+ card support for either major; non-forcing.
- 2♥ is a non-forcing sign-off; may have 0 points; with equal support for both majors bid the cheaper suit (hearts)
- 2♠ same as 2♥ but shows a definite preference for spades
- 2NT is natural; invites partner to bid 3NT ONLY IF the partnership has a specific point range
- 3♣ is artificial, shows game/slam interest in hearts or spades; forcing
- 3♦ shows very strong diamond suit; forcing
- 3♥ is preemptive; usually shows 4 hearts; non-forcing
- 3♠ is preemptive; usually shows 4 spades; non-forcing.
- 3NT is a natural signoff; shows a big balanced hand with no interest in major-suit game

Responses to a 2♦ Cuebid (Hearts and Spades)

- 2♥ is a non-forcing sign-off; may have 0 points; with equal support for both majors bid the cheaper suit (hearts)
- 2♠ same as 2♥ but shows a definite preference for spades
- 2NT is natural; invites partner to bid 3NT ONLY IF the partnership has a specific point range
- 3♣ is natural; shows club suit (at least 6 good pieces); denies 3+ cards in either major; non-forcing
- 3♦ is artificial, shows game/slam interest in hearts or spades; forcing
- 3♥ is preemptive; usually shows 4 hearts; non-forcing.
- 3♠ is preemptive; usually shows 4 spades; non-forcing
- 3NT is a natural signoff; shows a big balanced hand with no interest in major-suit game

¹ Adapted from Bridge Bum

Responses to a 2♥ Cuebid (Spades and a Minor)

- 2♠ is a non-forcing; sign-off
- 2NT asks the Michael's bidder to bid his minor suit
- 3♣ is natural; shows a very good club suit (usually 6+); non-forcing
- 3♦ is natural; shows a very good diamond suit (usually 6+); non-forcing
- 3♥ is artificial; shows game/slam interest in spades or a minor; forcing
- 3♠ is preemptive; usually shows 4 spades; non-forcing
- 3NT is a natural signoff; shows a big balanced hand with no interest in major-suit game

Responses to a 2♠ Cuebid (Hearts and a Minor)

- 2NT asks the Michael's bidder to bid his minor suit
- 3♣ is natural; shows a very good club suit (usually 6+); non-forcing
- 3♦ is natural; shows a very good diamond suit (usually 6+); non-forcing
- 3♥ is natural; sign-off
- 3♠ is artificial; shows game/slam interest in hearts or a minor; forcing
- 3NT is a natural signoff; shows a big balanced hand with no interest in major-suit game

Overcaller's Rebids

- If partner raised the cuebid (e.g., (1♥) 2♥, ?, 3♥), the Michaels cuebidder bids his cheapest suit at the cheapest level (in this case, 3♠) with a weak hand of around 0-10 points. All other bids show at least 10 points and are game forcing
- If partner has bid 2NT asking for overcaller's minor suit (e.g. (1♥) 2♥, ?, 2NT), the Michaels cuebidder is expected to bid his minor (i.e., bids 3♣ or 3♦)

Other Considerations

- When responding to Michaels with equal length in both of the cuebidder's suits, bid the cheapest suit first, especially when holding only two doubletons and even if you do not have any HCPs in that suit – this will give you a place to run if you are doubled
- Some players only use Michaels on weak hands (around 0-10) and strong hands (around 16+). With two-suits and simple opening HCPs (~ 12-15), they bid the higher-ranking suit first and hope they can rebid the other suit at their next turn.
 - Some believe it is more important to immediately show shape – so they'll bid Michael's with any HCP range
- When the opponents have bid TWO suits,
 - cuebidding opener's suit promises the other two suits
 - cuebidding responder's suit is natural – showing extremely good suit and decent hand
- Don't confuse Michael's Cue Bids with Western Cue Bids

RHO opens 1D and you have:

S – A K x x x

H – x x x x x

D – A Q x

C – Void

LHO opens 1H and you have:

S – K Q x x x

H – J

D – Q J T x x

C – A K

RHO opens 1H and you have:

S – x x x x x

H – A

D – x x x x x

C – x x

RHO opens 1S and you have:

S – x

H – J x

D – x x x x x

C – A x x x x

Bidding goes: 1H – 2H – P - ??? and you hold:

S – Q x x

H – A x

D – Q J T x x

C – x x x

Bidding goes: 1D – 2D – P - ??? and you hold:

S – K Q

H – x x

D – x x x

C – Q J T x x x

Bidding goes: 1C – 2C – P - ??? and you hold:

S – x x

H – x

D – A K J x x x

C – x x x x

Bidding goes: 1H – 2H – 3H - ??? and you hold:

S – xx

H – K Q 9 x x

D – A x x x

C – x x