

Use of Cue Bids in Competitive Auctions

- Sometimes it pays to bid a suit you DON'T have.
- Direct cue bid (Michaels) implies at least 5-5 in two OTHER suits.....over a minor, implies both majors; over a major, implies the other major and a minor. (Typically either weak (<10) or strong (>15); with intermediate hands just overcall.)
- If your partner opens and next player overcalls, cue bid of overcaller's suit implies at least a limit raise for partner....(This frees up a jump to 3 of opener's suit as a PREEMPTIVE raise—four trumps and few points.)
- If your LHO opens and your partner overcalls, a cue bid of your LHO's suit implies at least a limit raise for partner. (If partner then simply rebids his suit, it implies less than an opening hand....If partner bids another suit, it implies opening hand values and INVITES you to bid game with opening values.)
- If, in a competitive auction, you have bypassed a chance to raise your partner, a cue bid of opp's suit by you is a WESTERN CUE...asking for a stopper in opp's suit in an attempt to get to 3NT.
- If your RHO opens with a weak two bid, a cue bid (at the 3 level) by you implies a hand with 8 running tricks once you get the lead...it is asking partner to bid 3NT if he can stop the weak-two suit!
- The same “asking” cue bid can be used if your RHO opens at the one level...a JUMP CUE BID implies 8 running tricks and asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper. (Be sure you discuss this with partner before using it!)