

# SHOWING 5-5 DISTRIBUTIONS

Colorado Front Range Bridge

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## Max / Min Concept

### Typical Point Ranges for 5-5 Bids

<b>Weak</b>	<b>7 to ugly 11</b>
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>11 to 15*</b>
<b>Strong</b>	<b>16+</b>

\*Recommended overcall, then if possible other suit

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## Value of 5-5 Bids

- ▶ **84% of the time partner will have a fit (3+ cards) in one suit**
- ▶ **You might declare with fewer points**
- ▶ **Implies shortness in other suits**
- ▶ **Disturb opponents**

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## Other Factors

- ▶ **Vulnerability**
- ▶ **Who are your opponents**
- ▶ **Location of honors**
- ▶ **Extra length, voids**
- ▶ ***Don't be robotic, use judgement***

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## Potential 5-5 Bids

- ▶ **Michaels cue bid**
- ▶ **Unusual NT**
- ▶ **Sandwich NT**
- ▶ **After partners 1 NT opener**
- ▶ **NT interference bids**

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## Michaels Cue Bid

### Opener Your Bid

<b>1 C</b>	<b>2 C</b>	<i>5 - 5 Majors</i>
<b>1 D</b>	<b>2 D</b>	

### Opener Your Bid

<b>1 H</b>	<b>2 H</b>	<i>5 - 5 Other Major + Unknown minor</i>
<b>1 S</b>	<b>2 S</b>	

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## Michaels Cue Bid

### Responding to Majors

Typically show preference

### With unknown minor

Show preference for known major, or  
Bid 2 NT to ask partner which minor

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## Sandwich NT


- ✓ After opponents bid 2 suits
- ✓ Artificial 1 NT (not 15-17 pts)  
shows 5-5 in unbid suits
- ✓ Must be alerted "Sandwich"

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## Unusual NT

Originally to show 5-5 in minors  
Modern style: 5-5 in two lowest unbid suits

Opener	Your Bid	Meaning
1 C		H & D
1 D		H & C
1 H		Minors
1 S		Minors
1 NT		Minors

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## Sandwich example

North	East	South	West
1H	pass	1S	1NT!

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## Unusual responses...

- ✓ Most common – show preference
- ✓ Bid your own long quality suit  
(not forcing)
- ✓ Jump to game with strong hand or  
to extend the preempt
- ✓ 3NT – extremely rare  
(transposition issues)

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## Examples

- ▶ Michaels cue bid
- ▶ Unusual NT
- ▶ Sandwich NT

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**A**

Your Hand	Opener	Your Bid
Q T x x x A Q x x x x x x x	1 C	2 C

Commentary:  
 Michaels Cue Bid  
 Both majors!

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### Recommendations

- ✓ Its all about partnership agreements
- ✓ Start with Michaels, get experience
- ✓ Don't cheat on 5-5  
 (partner will pick shorter and be unhappy)
- ✓ Down 1 is often good bridge

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**B**

Your Hand	Opener	Your Bid
x x Q J T x x x A Q x x x	1 D	2 NT

Commentary:  
 Unusual NT  
 Two lowest unbid  
 Hearts and Clubs

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**C**

Your Hand	N	E	S	W
x A J T x x x K J T x x	1D	pass	1S	1NT

Commentary:  
 5-5 in the unbid suits  
 Sandwich - yummm

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