

REVISITING CUE BIDS

When a bid is showing a suit and when it's a cue bid.

1. A trump suit must have been agreed.
2. If you have agreed on a major suit, a new suit above three of your major is a cue bid.
3. If you have agreed on a minor suit, then a bid of a new suit above 3 NT is a cue bid.

For example, if partner open 1 spade and you jump to 3 spades, that's the suit you're playing in. Therefore, the auction 1 spade, 3 spades, 4 clubs, shows slam interest and a club control. If declarer is only interested in game, he would raise to 4 spades.

A suit must have been by one partner and raised by the other to be considered "an agreed suit."

1 Diamond – 1 Spade - 3 Spades – 4 Clubs, 4 Diamonds, and 4 H – 2 Hearts would now be cue bids. (Note that 4 diamonds is a cue bid even though opener previously bid the suit naturally)

1 Heart - 2 Hearts – 3 Diamonds IS NOT a cue bid because it's not above 3 of your major. 3 Diamonds is a Help Suit Game Try.

1 Diamond – 2 Clubs – 3 Clubs – 3 Hearts is not a cue bid, as it's below 3 NT. It's showing heart values and inviting you to bid 3 NT with a spade stopper. Remember, it must be clear that you are looking for a slam for a bid to be a cue bid. In this auction, partner is still investigating for the best game.

A simple rule when cue bidding is that you begin by showing your lowest first-round control. If you bypass a suit, (skip over it), then you specifically deny control of that suit. Both members of the partnership continue showing controls "up the line". If you come back to the next round of bidding and cue bid a suit you skipped over earlier, then that shows second -round control.

You shouldn't bid Blackwood with 2 losers in an unbid suit. Cue bidding solves the problem. A control is exactly what the name implies, it means you control that suit. Aces and voids are called first-round controls. You must have first-round control of at least 3 suits, in order to make a small slam.

A bid of the agreed trump suit is never a cue bid. It's called sign-off and suggests that either you do not have another control to cue bid, or you don't have a good enough hand to proceed beyond the level the bidding has already reached.

AK874
 Void DEALER – 1 Spade
 Q48 4 Clubs (Cue Bid)
 AKJ103 ??????

Q632 Partner- 3 spades
 KJ8 4 spades
 KJ53
 98

Partner opens 1 spade, you respond 3 spades (limit raise), partner cue bids clubs,
 You bid 4 spades, nothing to cue bid, how should the auction continue??

K754 ?????? your bid
 A863 X at the 3 level for T.Out
 86 shows a good hand
 K53

J8
 QJ92 PASS
 72
 Q8762

Q102 DEALER – 3 Diamonds
 107
 KQJ1-943
 9

A963
 K54 Double
 A5
 AJ104

Opponent opened with a 3 diamond preempt, TO double is better than 12 HCP,
 As partner of the TO double, what's your bid???

AQ105 2 Hearts, cue bid
 Q6 3 NT
 J107
 A963

8632
 542
 K2 PASS
 10542 PASS

KJ7 DEALER 1 Heart
 AJ1093 PASS
 63
 QJ7

94
 K87 2 Diamonds
 AQ9854 2 NT
 K8

North is the advancer, has to decide how best to move towards game. To show interest in game
 Start with a cue bid. South has a good hand for the overcall and a heart stopper, 2NT shows
 this hand, North is happy to raise to 3NT, better than 5 diamonds, 2 of hearts lead, your play?