

Responding to a Two-Suit Overcall

Michaels Cue

Unusual No Trump

First Let's Look at Michaels Cue

- A cue bid of an opponent's minor suit opening shows both majors.
 - 1 ♣ and a direct 2 ♣ cue bid shows
 - ♥ and ♠ 5-5 distribution or better.
 - 1 ♦ and a direct 2 ♦ cue bid shows
 - ♥ and ♠ 5-5 distribution or better
 - 1 ♠ and a direct 2 ♠ cue bid shows 5+ ♥ with a 5+ card unspecified minor suit
 - 1 ♥ and a direct 2 ♥ cue bid shows
 - 5 or more ♠ with a 5+ card unspecified minor suit

How Strong Should the Michaels Bidder Be?

- You don't need a lot of points to bid Michaels.
- The bid is generally intended to be obstructive and preemptive.
- However, you and your partner should discuss how you want to handle a two-suited overcall.
- There are three options.

Strength Option 1

- Use the Michaels cue with any hand that meets the distribution guidelines.
- Point count 7+ points.
- For me this is too vague and not your best option.

Strength Option 2

- Use Michaels cue with any hand that has between 8 and 15 points.
- With 16+ points:
 - Overcall the higher ranking suit
 - Than overcall the lower ranking suit.
- For me, this is better than option 1.
- Partner at least has an clue of how good your hand is.

Strength Option 3

- Divide two-suit hands into 3 categories
 1. 6-12 points
 2. 13-17 points
 3. 18+ points
- Category 1: use Michaels cue but do not bid again unless forced by partner.
- Category 2: Try to overcall both suits.
- Category 3: Use Michaels cue, then make an additional bid to show partner your strength.

Responses to Michaels Cue

- If partner used the Michaels cue and your RHO passes, you must select a suit
 - If partner's bid shows both majors, pick your best major.
 - After you make your choice, partner will not bid again, unless she has the 18+ hand.
 - If partner's bid shows a major and a minor, you can ask partner to show the minor suit by bidding 2 no trump.

Some Examples

♠ K 2	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♥ 3 2	1 ♦	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
♦ k 10 7 5				
♣ Q J 9 4 3				

When you have a doubleton in both of partner's suits, bid the lower.

♠ 9	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♥ K J 3 2	1 ♥	2 ♥	Pass	2 nt
♦ k 10 5				
♣ 9 8 6 4 3				

Consider These Michaels Hands

♠ K Q 5 4 3
♥ J 10 7 6 4
♦ A 5
♣ 3

LHO	You	RHO	Partner
1 ♦	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
3 ♣			

♠ A K Q 5 4
♥ A K 7 6 4
♦ A 5
♣ 3

LHO	You	RHO	Partner
1 ♦	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♠		

One More Example

♠ K J 8 5 4 3	LHO	You	RHO	Partner
♥ A Q 10 7 6 4	1 ♦	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
♦ 5	3 ♣	3 ♥		
♣				

When you have extreme distribution, you should bid again,

Advancer Example (1)

	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♠ 9 4 3	1 ♦	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
♥ K 7				
♦ J 8 3				
♣ K J 8 5 2				

You would make this bid even if RHO had raised opener suit.

More Advancer Example (2)

	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♠ K J 8 3	1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
♥ Q 9 7				
♦ J 8				
♣ 10 8 5 2				

- You don't know partner's second suit, but you have a heart fit. Push them a bid.
- If they were to continue in spades, you might make things a bit uncomfortable for them.

Advancer Example (3)

♠ 3	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♥ K 10 9 7 5	1 ♥	2 ♥	Pass	2 nt ²
♦ J 8 6 3	nt			
♣ Q 8 5				

- You will pass whichever minor partner bids.

Advancer Example (4)

♠ J 9 8 6	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♥ K J 8	1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	2 nt
♦ A J 8 6	nt			
♣ 8 7				

- If partner bids diamonds, you will place the contract at 4 ♥
- If partner bids clubs, you would choose to invite game, with 3 ♥.

A Couple Conventional Bids You Should Know

- In a competitive auction, if you want to play in partner's minor, you can bid clubs.
- If you are sure, you want to play game in partner's minor you can bid 4nt. **This is not Blackwood.**
- 3 nt is natural and to play.
- In a non-competitive auction, the bid of either minor (when partner has shows a major and a minor) says, "I want to play this suit regardless of your holding."

Advancer Example (5)

	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♠ Q 6	1 ♥	2 ♥	3 ♥	4 ♣ 2
♥ 9 8 5				
♦ K J 8 6				
♣ A 10 7 3				

- You want to compete at the 4-level, but you will pass if they bid 4 ♥

Advancer Example (6)

♠ A 6	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♥ 9 8 5 3	1 ♥	2 ♥	3 ♥	4 nt 2
♦ K Q 8 6				
♣ A Q 7				

- With this hand, you are willing to play at the 5-level in partner's minor suit

Advancer Example (7)

	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♠ 4 2	1 ♣	2 ♣	pass	3 ♥ 2
♥ K 7 5 3				
♦ 8 6				
♣ J 10 9 4 2				

- A jump bid in one of partner's known suit is preemptive and non-forcing.
- However, with a really good hand partner might bid

Advancer Example (8)

	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♠ A 9 4 2	1 ♠	2 ♠	pass	4 ♥ 2
♥ K J 5 3				
♦ 8				
♣ K 10 9 2				

- A jump bid in one of partner's known suit is preemptive and non-forcing.
- However, with a really good hand partner might bid game directly

Advancer Example (9)







♠ K Q 8 6	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♥ A 3	1 ♦	2 ♦	pass	3 ♦ 2
♦ 8 6 2				
♣ A J 9 2				

- A cue bid of the opponent's suit is forcing one round..
- It shows game and, possibly, slam interest
- The Michaels bidder, with a weak hand, bids the most convenient of his two suits,
- Any other descriptive bid shows a strong hand.
- In this case, the Michaels bidder, with a weak hand, will bid 3 ♥, you will correct to 3 ♠.

The Unusual 2 No Trump

- This is also a two-suit overcall.
- Like the Michaels cue it is usual a preemptive tactic.
- You can divide unusual no trump hand into three categories, in the same way you do with Michaels cue.
 - 6 to 12 points: make the 2nt bid then leave it up to partner.
 - 13-17 try to overcall one suit than the other']
 - 18+ make the 2nt bid then bid again usually supporting partner.

The Unusual 2 No Trump Bid

- You always know both of the unusual no trump bidder's suits.
 - If the opener opens a major suit, the 2 nt bidder has both minors. (5-5) or better.
 - If the opener opens 1 , the 2nt bidder has  and  (5-5 or better).
 - If the opener opens 1 , the 2nt bidder has  and  (5-5 or better).

Advancer Example (10)

♠ K 9 4 2	LHO	Partner	RHO	You
♥ 3	1 ♣	2 nt	pass	3 ♦ 2
♦ J 8 5				
♣ A J 9 7 2				

- Because RHO has passed, you must bid 3 ♦
- You have no desire to go any further.
- However, if opener hand bid 1 ♥, your hand would be fitting with both partner's suits and 5 ♣ would be a strong possibility.

Guidelines for the Advancer

- Similar to those for the Michaels cue.
 - A simple preference to one of partner's suits shows no interest in game.
 - A jump in one of the suits is preemptive if it is below the game level.
 - A jump to the game level could be a weak preemptive bid or a bid with the intention of making the contract.
 - A cuebid of the opponent's suit is forcing for one round and shows at least game-invitational values.
 - 3NT is to play.