

Michaels' Cue Bid



Michaels' Cue

- A conventional bid.
- Made by an overcaller (not a responder or an advancer)
- Shows a two-suited hand, with at least 5 cards in each of the suits.
- Forces the partner to bid if the next person passes.
- Is generally a preemptive bid but may be used with strong hands.

A Direct Cut Bid

- 1 ♣...2 ♣ shows 5+ ♥ and 5+ ♠
- 1 ♦ ...2 ♦ shows 5+ ♥ and 5+ ♠
- 1 ♥ ...2 ♥ shows 5+ ♠ and 5+ of an unnamed minor suit.
- 1 ♠ ...2 ♠ shows 5+ ♥ and 5+ of an unnamed minor suit.

What Point Count?

This System is not Universal

- Consider three types of hands:
 - Weak = 5 to 11 points
 - Intermediate = 12 to 16 points
 - Strong = 17+ points
- Michaels is used with either weak or strong hands.
- Intermediate hand are handled by overcalling one suit, then the other.

Suit Quality

- When you use Michaels' Cue, most of your high-card points should be in the two suits.
- If you have points outside the two suits, they should be aces or guarded kings.
- Outside queens and jacks will usually be of little value to you.

Example Hands 1

1 ♣...2 ♣ or 1 ♦ ...2 ♦

Weak Hand

♠ K J 7 5 3

♥ Q J 10 7 3

♦ 9 2

♣ 2

Strong Hand

♠ A K 7 5 3

♥ K Q J 7 3

♦ A 2

♣ 2

Example Hands 2

1 ♥ ... 2 ♥

Weak Hand

♠ K J 7 5 3

♥ 3

♦ A J 10 7 3

♣ 7 2

Strong Hand

♠ A Q J 10 7

♥ 5

♦ A K Q 8 2

♣ K 2

Example Hands 3

1 ♠ ... 2 ♠

Weak Hand

♠ 5 3

♥ K J 7 5 3

♦ K J 10 7 3

♣ 7

Strong Hand

♠ A 3

♥ A K J 10 7

♦

♣ K Q J 8 5 2

Some Two-Suited Hand Don't Fit

North bids 1  ...

East's Hand




 A Q 7 5 3

 5 3

 4

 J 10 7 5 3

1 

East cannot bid 2 , because it would show both majors. East cannot bid the unusual no trump, because that shows  and .

Advancing Michaels' Cue

- First, if your RHO bids, you are relieved of your obligation to bid.
- You may bid if you choose to do so, but you no longer are forced to bid.
- Having made that point, remember, partner is probably using Michaels to interfere with the opponents.
- If you have something worth bidding, you should do so. Help your partner.

Advancer Example Hands

LHO

Part

RHO

YOU

1 ♣

2 ♣

pass

??

Hand 4

♠ 3

♥ 5 3

♦ K J 10 7 3

♣ K J 7 5 2

2 ♥

Hand 5

♠ 9 3

♥ K J 10

♦ 8 7 4 5

♣ Q 8 4 2

2 ♥

Advancer Example Hands

LHO

Part

RHO

YOU

1 ♥

2 ♥

pass

??

Hand 5

♠ Q 5 3

♥ 7 3

♦ 10 7 8 3

♣ J 7 5 2

2 ♠

Hand 6

♠ Q J 9 3 2

♥ 7 5

♦ 8 7 4

♣ K 5 2

4 ♠

Advancer Example Hands

LHO	Part	RHO	YOU
1 ♠	2 ♠	pass	??

Hand 7

♠ 7

♥ Q 5 3

♦ K 7 8 3

♣ Q 7 5 3 2

2 ♥ / 2nt

Hand 8

♠ 9 6 3

♥ K J 10

♦ 9 8 7 4 3

♣ 8 2

2 ♥

Advancer Example Hands

LHO

Part

RHO

YOU

1 ♥

2 ♥

pass

??

Hand 9

♠ Q 5 3

♥ 7

♦ K 7 8 3

♣ Q 7 5 3 2

2nt

Hand 10

♠ 9 2

♥ K 8 6 2

♦ 9 8 7 5 4

♣ 8 2

2 ♠

Advancer Example Hands

LHO

Part

RHO

YOU

1 ♥

2 ♥

pass

??

Hand 11

♠ Q 5

♥ 7 4

♦ K 7 8 3

♣ Q 7 5 3 2

2nt

Hand 12

♠ 9 7 4 2

♥ K 8 6 2

♦ 9 8

♣ 8 7 2

2 nt

Advancer Example Hands

LHO

Part

RHO

YOU

1 ♣

2 ♣

pass

??

Hand 13

♠ K 7 5 3

♥ 7 5

♦ 7 3

♣ J 10 5 3 2

3 ♠

Hand 14

♠ K 9 8 2

♥ Q 10 6 2

♦ 4

♣ A 8 5 2

4 ♣

The Really Strong Two Suiter

LHO	You	RHO	Part
1 ♣	2 ♣	pass	2 ♥
pass	3 ♥		

Hand 15

♠ A K J 5 3

♥ A Q J 10 5

♦ A 9 5

♣

Hand 16

♠ K Q J 9 2

♥ A Q 10 8 6 2

♦

♣ A 8

Handling the Midrange Two Suiter

- Midrange two-suited hand (12 to 16 points): Overcall one suit, then bid the second suit.
- When you show your second suit, partner will wonder why you have shown a two-suit hand and did not use Michaels' Cue.
- Partner will conclude that you have the midrange two suiter.

The Midrange Two Suiter

RHO	You	LHO	Part
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥	pass
pass	3 ♣		

Hand 17

♠ A K J 5 3

♥ 10 5

♦ 5

♣ K Q 8 5 2

The Midrange Two Suiter

RHO	You	LHO	Part
1 ♠	2 ♣	pass	pass
2 ♠	3 ♥	Pass	??

Hand 18

♠ 2

♥ A Q 10 8 6

♦ 4

♣ A Q J 9 8 5

Can the Initial Michaels Bidder Bid Again?

- Most of the time, the Michaels' cue bidder will have a weak hand and no reason to bid again, unless forced by partner.
 - Partner asks for your minor by bidding 2nt.
 - You have extra distributional value and think you should be competing further.
 - You have the strong Michaels hand.
- Here are some of the rare examples.

The Strong Two Suiter

RHO	You	LHO	Part
1 ♣	2 ♣	pass	2 ♥
3 ♣	3 ♥		

Hand 19

♠ K Q J 10 7

♥ A Q 10 8 6 4

♦ A 2

♣

Can the Michaels Bidder Bid Again?

RHO	You	LHO	Part
1 ♠	2 ♠	3 ♦	pass
3 ♠	4 ♣		

Hand 20

♠ 4

♥ K Q J 10 9

♦ 4

♣ K Q J 9 8 4

Can the Michaels Bidder Bid Again?

RHO	You	LHO	Part
1 ♠	2 ♠	2 ♦	pass
3 ♠	4 ♣		

Hand 21



♥ Q J 10 9 6

♦ 4

♣ K Q J 9 8 5 4

Can the Michaels Bidder Bid Again?

RHO	You	LHO	Part
1 ♠	2 ♠	pass	3 ♥
pass	4 ♣		

Hand 22



♥ A K Q 10 9

♦ 4 2

♣ A Q J 9 8 4