

## A General Approach To Cuebids

Simply stated, cuebidding is the act of bidding a suit that the opponents have already bid. It makes sense that this should be a special bid, because if an opponent says "I can take 7 tricks with hearts as trump" (1♥), then wanting to say "I can take 8 tricks with hearts as trump" (2♥) seems like an odd thing to want to say. Why don't we have 2♥ mean something else?

There are many, many different types of cuebids, but a broad way of categorizing them is based upon what has transpired in the auction so far. Here's the 3 ways that I like to think of them:

1. The opponents have bid and we have not. e.g. (1♠)-2♠ .
2. My partner has bid and I have not. e.g. 1♣ -(1♠)-2♠ .
3. Both my partner and I have bid. 1♣ - 1♥ -(1♠)-2♠ .

### Scenario 1, the opponents have bid and we have not.

The first scenario is essentially Michaels. We're showing a 2 suited hand with 5-5 in either both majors or the unbid major and a minor. Michaels is its own topic and I won't delve too deeply into that here. Special cases in this scenario are: (Cuebidder bolded)

1. The opponent's opened NT

West	<b>North</b>	East	South
1N	2N		

2. The opponent's preempted

West	<b>North</b>	East	South
2♠	3♠		

3. Both opponents have bid suits

West	North	East	<b>South</b>
1♣	P	1♥	2♣/2♥

4. The opponent's opened an artificial bid (1♣ precision) - 2♣

West	<b>North</b>	East	South
1♣!	2♣		

5. Jump cuebids (1♠)-3♠

West	<b>North</b>	East	South
1♠	3♠		

6. Cuebid in balancing seat 1♣ -P-P-2♣

West	North	East	<b>South</b>
1♣	P	P	2♣

Each of these scenarios should be discussed with your partner as there is no standard agreement for them. (With the exception of (1N)-2N which is the minors)

## Scenario 2, My partner has bid and I have not.

This is the classic support cuebid. It shows a fit for opener's suit and invitational or better values (11+).

The 2 main scenarios are:

1. My partner has opened a minor

West	North	<b>East</b>	South
1♣	1♥	2♥	

Since our overall priority order is Majors->NT->Minors, we would rather play NT than a minor. Therefore, partner's first responsibility is to show a stopper if they have one.

2. My partner has opened a major.

West	North	<b>East</b>	South
1♥	1♠	2♠	

Again, following the priority order logic, we have found our fit. Partner's first responsibility is to decide if they want to accept the invitation or not.

Special Cases

1. My partner overcalled.

West	North	East	<b>South</b>
1♥	2♣	P	2♥

Many players play this scenario as not promising a fit. If you bid 2♠ here is that forcing or not? If not, then 2♥ needs to include GF hands with suits of their own.

2. Partner opened 1N

West	North	<b>East</b>	South
1N	2♦	3♦	

3. The cuebid forces you to game

West	North	<b>East</b>	South
1♥	2♠	3♠	

4. Partner made a takeout double

West	North	East	<b>South</b>
1♣	X	P	2♣

5. Jump Cuebid

West	North	<b>East</b>	South
1♥	2♣	4♣	

### Scenario 3, both my partner and I have bid.

If we've both bid suits, then this is typically not a fit showing bid.

Instead it's a forcing bid asking you to further describe your hand. The 2 main scenarios are:

1. The opponents have bid 1 suit

<b>West</b>	North	East	South
1♣	1♥	1♠	P
2♥			

This is asking for a stopper.

2. The opponents have bid 2 suits

West	North	<b>East</b>	South
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♦
3♣	P	3♦	

This is showing a stopper, and by implication asking for a stopper in the other suit.

### Additional special cases:

1. The opponents have implied their suits

West	North	<b>East</b>	South
1♣	2♣	2♠	

2. The opponents have implied 1 suit (1N)-(2♦!)-2♥

West	North	East	<b>South</b>
1N	P	2♦!	2♥

3. Jump cuebids when partner overcalled:

West	North	East	<b>South</b>
1♥	1♠	P	3♥