

Michaels Cue Bid

The ‘**Michaels Cuebid**’ convention stipulates that a cue-bid of an opponent’s opening bid shows a two-suited hand. The structure over a Minor Suit opening bid:

(1♣) 2♣: At least 5-5 in the majors. Partner must take a preference to 2♥ or 2♠, although he can, with an appropriate hand, bid three or four.

(1♦) 2♦: At least 5-5 in the majors. (same as above)

There are two ways to ask partner what their undisclosed is:

The expected strength for using Michaels is one of two hands.

A weak hand 6-9 points **or** a strong hand 16+ points.

With an intermediate strength hand (11-15 points) you should just bid your suits starting with the higher ranking or longer suit first.

Michaels can also be used in balancing position: i.e. 1♣ - P - P - 2♣

An opponent opens the bidding with 1♦ and you hold:

♠ KJ987 ♥ J10973 ♦ K3 ♣ 5 Bid 2♦ (5-5 in the majors)

An opponent open the bidding with 1♠ and you hold either:

♠ 4 ♥ KQ1083 ♦ K98732 ♣ 9

♠ 4 ♥ AQ1084 ♦ K3 ♣ AQJ93

Bid 2♠ with either of these two hands to show at 5 hearts and five of a minor.

Asking the Michaels bidder - what their undisclosed Minor is?

Option ONE (Weakish Hand)

i.e. 1♥ - (2♥) Shows 5+ spades and 5+ cards in a minor. Which minor?

You respond: 1♥ - (2♥) – pass - ? Bidding 3♣ says “pass or correct. If your hand is weak with 5+ clubs pass. If you are weak with 5+ diamonds - then correct to 3♦.”

Option TWO (Stronger Hand)

Or if holding a better hand - you can bid 2NT and ask partner to reveal which minor they have. Then take whatever action you deem appropriate.

Michaels Cue-bid

Bidding the same suit as opener at the two-level, is a Michael's Cue-bid.

(1♣) - 2♣	Shows minimum 5 - 5 in ♥ and ♠
(1♦) - 2♦	Shows minimum 5 - 5 in ♥ and ♠
(1♥) - 2♥	Shows minimum 5-5 in ♠ and ♣ <u>or</u> minimum 5-5 in ♠ and ♦
(1♠) - 2♠	Shows 5-5 in ♥ and ♣ <u>or</u> 5-5 in ♥ and ♦
(1♥) - 3♥	This is not a Michaels Cue-bid! It is called a <i>Western Cue-bid</i> , asking partner to bid 3NT with a heart stopper
(2♠) - 3♠	This is not a Michaels Cue-bid! It is also a <i>Western Cue-bid</i> , asking partner to bid 3NT with a spade stopper
(1♥) - P - P - 2♥	You can also play Michaels in the protective seat. (4 th seat) Make sure you and your partner agree on this!

Hand Strength

I have long played Michaels as either a weak hand (5-9) or a strong hand (16+). With a hand that is intermediate in strength (10-15) I overcall the higher ranking or longer suit first and then show my second suit with my next bid. This style seems to be quite popular with the tournament players. However, be cautious about bidding Michaels with a hand that is too weak as your chances of buying the auction are less, and it comes back to haunt you as the opponents, who are playing the contract, now have a lot of information of how the suits are splitting and they exploit this to their full advantage.

Responding

Deciding on how which suit to bid in response to partner's Michaels Cue-bid is based very much in logic. If the auction goes: 1♥ - 2♥* - Pass - ? If you have the following hands, respond as suggested.

♠973 ♥9842 ♦QJ74 ♣A3
Bid 2♠: Partner has 5+ spades
and a 5+ card minor.

♠AJ54 ♥42 ♦A974 ♣K3
Bid 4♠:

♠3 ♥9842 ♦QJ74 ♣10983
Bid 2NT: Asking partner to
name her minor suit. You are
prepared for both diamonds and
clubs.

♠J2 ♥A9754 ♦84 ♣QJ84
Bid 2♠: I know this places you in a 5-2 spade
fit, but if you bid 2NT asking for partner's
minor suit and she bids 3♦ ...now what?

Michaels Cue-bid Quiz

Right Hand Opponent (RHO) opens the bidding with 1♦ and it is your bid?

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
| ♠ A9874 | ♠ AK8732 | ♠ 109874 | ♠ 8 |
| ♥ Q10985 | ♥ KJ973 | ♥ AKQ42 | ♥ AKJ73 |
| ♦ 76 | ♦ -- | ♦ 43 | ♦ 74 |
| ♣ 2 | ♣ 93 | ♣ 5 | ♣ AK743 |

LHO opened 1♠, your partner bid 2♠. What is your response?

- | | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
| ♠ A832 | ♠ 2 | ♠ KJ1032 | ♠ 8654 |
| ♥ 985 | ♥ AQ73 | ♥ 42 | ♥ 3 |
| ♦ 73 | ♦ 1092 | ♦ 843 | ♦ AQ74 |
| ♣ KJ72 | ♣ AQJ93 | ♣ J95 | ♣ AK43 |

LHO opened 1♦, your partner bid 2♦. What is your response?

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
| ♠ A32 | ♠ A1084 | ♠ 92 | ♠ 432 |
| ♥ Q85 | ♥ AK86 | ♥ 92 | ♥ A6 |
| ♦ J8743 | ♦ 10874 | ♦ 10843 | ♦ QJ74 |
| ♣ 82 | ♣ 3 | ♣ AQ653 | ♣ K743 |