



Michael `s Cue Bid

When opponents have opened a Minor Suit

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	2♦		

Over an opponent's minor opening
the cue-bid shows both majors.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	2♦	Pass	4♠

With an eight-card fit and seven
losers, West raises to game.

(1♣-2♣ also shows hearts & spades.)

East

♠	K Q J 10 9
♥	A 9 8 7 6
♦	
♣	7 6 5

West

♠	A 8 4
♥	6 5
♦	K Q 9
♣	Q J 10 5 2

When opponents have opened a Major Suit

Over an opponent's major opening a cue-bid shows the other major and an unspecified minor suit. For example, 1♠-2♠ shows hearts and either clubs or diamonds.

Michaels does not come up very often, but it is so useful when it does that it's worth adopting. It is typically easy to spot as well so there is less chance than with some conventional bids of partner failing to alert and follow up!

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	2♥		

East

♠ K Q J 10 9

♥

♦ A 9 8 7 6

♣ 7 6 5

Over an opponent's minor opening the cue-bid shows the other major and a five card+ minor suit.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	2♥	Pass	4♠

West

♠ A 8 4

♥ 6 5

♦ K Q 9

♣ Q J 10 5 2

With an eight-card fit and seven losers, West raises to game.



If the cue-bid shows a major you cannot support, make a 2NT (alerted) enquiry about the minor suit. Then pass or correct.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	2♥		

Over an opponent's minor opening the cue-bid shows the other major and a five card+ minor suit.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	2♥	Pass	2NT
			
	3♣	Pass	Pass

East

♠	10
♥	7 6 5
♦	A 9 8 7 6
♣	K Q J 9

West

♠	A 8 4
♥	6 5
♦	K Q 9
♣	Q J 10 5 2



The Unusual Two No Trumps

is a conventional (artificial) overcall which shows a two-suited hand in the two lowest un-bid suits.

The “natural” meaning of a 2NT overcall shows a balanced hand with 20-22 points. This is so rare, that assigning a conventional meaning is an improvement in the tool kit!

The two-suited hand will have at least 5 cards in each suit and typically 8-16 high-card points (HCP). Point count agreements vary, so you should discuss the method with your partner.

The Unusual Two No Trumps bid should show a hand that can tolerate winning the auction. When made on very weak hands, the opponents may win the auction and are warned about the unbalanced holding of the bidder. Given that the Unusual 2NT is forcing, some partnerships apply no upper limit to its high card strength.

It is alertable and forcing for one round if opener’s partner does not bid.

For example

In this sequence the bidder is showing five cards or more in each of Clubs and Hearts.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	2NT		

Responding to the Unusual Two No Trumps

The bid is forcing, so West must find a bid.

With a ten-card fit in hearts and seven losers, West raises to game.

With a weaker hand, West should bid to show preference between the two implied suits.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	2NT	Pass	4♥

The Unusual Two No Trumps does not come up very often, but it is especially useful when it does. It should be possible to spot it, as this will always be a strange bid.

East

♠ 7 6 5
 ♥ A 9 8 7 6
 ♦
 ♣ K Q J 10 9

West

♠ A 8 4
 ♥ Q J 10 5 2
 ♦ K Q 9
 ♣ 6 5



Two Places to Play

Something Similar at a higher level

When opponents open, for example, $1\spadesuit$, partner passes, and opponents raise to $4\spadesuit$,

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
$1\spadesuit$	Pass	$4\spadesuit$	4NT



an overcall of 4NT has a similar message:
"two places to play".

West

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A 9 8 7 6

7 6 5

K Q J 10 9

Partner bids their lowest ranking quality suit and the 4NT bidder passes or corrects.