

INTERMEDIATE LESSON 8: STUDENT NOTES

Michaels Cue Bids & Unusual 2NT Overcall

Michaels Cue Bid is used to show a two suiter hand (at least 5/5)

- Cue of a major suit shows the other major and a minor
eg (1♥) – 2♥ = 5+ spades and 5+ of a minor
- Cue of a minor suit shows both majors
eg (1♦) – 2♦ = 5+ spades and 5+ hearts
- Cue of the opening suit bid after the opposition opened and responded.
This shows the two unbid suits
eg (1♣) – P – (1♥) – 2♣ = 5+ spades and 5+ diamonds

Unusual 2NT overcall always shows the two lowest unbid suits (at least 5/5)

eg (1♠) – 2NT = 5+/5+ in the minors

(1♦) – 2NT = 5+ clubs and 5+ hearts

With spades and the other minor you must bid your spade suit over a minor suit opening

The strength of a Michaels bid or 2NT overcall requires partnership agreement.

It usually shows 10+ HCP, with points in your long suits. You may decide to use Michaels with a weaker hand if you are not vulnerable.

[An alternative is to play these bids as either weak (5-10) or strong (15+). Therefore with 11-14 you would overcall your higher ranked suit and bid again if appropriate]

Example hands:

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ KQJ84	♠ AQT98	♠ 92	♠ KJT974
♥ 6	♥ AK754	♥ QJ865	♥ –
♦ A9875	♦ 4	♦ 6	♦ K5
♣ 83	♣ 75	♣ KQJ87	♣ AQ654
(1♥) – 2♥	(1♦) – 2♦	(1♠) – 2♠	(1♥) – 2♥

(e)
 ♠ 6
 ♥ 87
 ♦ AJT76
 ♣ KQ875
 (1♠) – 2NT

(f)
 ♠ A
 ♥ 65
 ♦ AQJT8
 ♣ KQJ98
 (1♥) – 2NT

(g)
 ♠ 873
 ♥ KQT76
 ♦ –
 ♣ AKQ73
 (1♦) – 2NT

(h)
 ♠ T8
 ♥ AK976
 ♦ 3
 ♣ KQ875
 (1♣) – 1♥

Responses to Michaels Cue Bid after a major suit opening:

- Bid the known suit at the lowest level = to play (may only have a doubleton)
- Bid the lower of the other two suits at any level = pass or correct (weak if lowest level)
- 2NT forcing enquiry = game try or better asking for the other suit
- Game in known suit = to make or pre-emptive

(i)
 ♠ KQ76
 ♥ 95
 ♦ AT76
 ♣ Q65
 (1♥) – 2♥ – (P) – 3♠
 3♠ is inviting to game

(j)
 ♠ J864
 ♥ 73
 ♦ K942
 ♣ QJ5
 (1♠) – 2♠ – (P) – 3♣
 want to play a minor

(k)
 ♠ QJ5
 ♥ A654
 ♦ KT64
 ♣ 76
 (1♥) – 2♥ – (P) – 2NT
 If partner bids 3♣ you bid 3♠ but if they bid 3♦ you bid 4♠

Subsequent auction:

- After a minimum bid by partner, the Michaels bidder can only bid further if they have a strong or very distributional hand.
- After a pass or correct bid, they either pass or show the other suit they have, unless the opener bids again.
- After 2NT enquiry the Michaels bidder shows both their strength as well as their other suit - jump with a strong hand.

(l)
 ♠ 64
 ♥ AQJ75
 ♦ KQT94
 ♣ 5
 (1♠) – 2♠ – (P) – 3♣
 (P) – 3♦
 3♣ is pass or correct and does not like hearts

(m)
 ♠ KQJ62
 ♥ 7
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ AQ743
 (1♥) – 2♥ – (P) – 3♣
 (P) – 3♥
 3♥ is a strong hand, game try

(n)
 ♠ KJ765
 ♥ QJ842
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K6
 (1♦) – 2♦ – (X) – 2♥
 (3♦) – P
 Don't bid your hand twice !

Responses to Michaels Cue Bid after a minor suit opening or unusual 2NT:

Once you know both of partner's suits, bid as high as you are prepared to go. Re-evaluate your hand with a double fit.

(o)

♠ Q5
♥ KJ8
♦ AJ54
♣ 9875

(1♣) – 2♣ – (P) – 4♥

(p)

♠ 975
♥ QJ82
♦ Q43
♣ K32

(1♠) – 2NT – (P) – 3♣

(q)

♠ A543
♥ 8
♦ KQ94
♣ A754

(1♥) – 2NT – (3♥) – 5♣