

# Intermediate Lesson 8: Michaels Cue Bid and Unusual 2 NT overcall

**NZBridge**

**Board 1**  
North Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 2  
♥ 6 5  
♦ K J 10 6 2  
♣ A K 9 2

♠ 9 8 6  
♥ K Q J 10 3  
♦ 5 4  
♣ Q J 8

♠ K Q J 5 3  
♥ A 8 7 4 2  
♦ A  
♣ 6 3

♠ 10 7 4  
♥ 9  
♦ Q 9 8 7 3  
♣ 10 7 5 4

West	North	East	South
4 ♥	1 ♦	2 ♦	Pass
	All pass		

East's 2 ♦ bid shows 5/5 in the majors. This bid must not be alerted.

West jumps to 4 ♥ knowing their side has a 10-card fit.

4 ♥ makes for the loss of 2 clubs and a spade.

**Board 2**  
East Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ J 4  
♥ 9 5  
♦ K J 10 9 6 3  
♣ 9 8 7

♠ A 6 3 2  
♥ 7 4  
♦ 8 4 2  
♣ Q 5 4 3

♠ 9 5  
♥ A Q 6 3  
♦ Q  
♣ A K J 10 6 2

♠ K Q 10 8 7  
♥ K J 10 8 2  
♦ A 7 5  
♣ —

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♦	1 ♣	2 ♣
4 ♣	4 ♦	All pass	3 ♦

South's 2 ♣ bid shows both majors. This bid must not be alerted.

North bids diamonds naturally with no liking for either major suit. The hand then becomes a battle of the minor suits.

5 ♦ actually makes because of the favourable lie of the heart suit although North-South are unlikely to bid that high. Always treat the 1 ♣ as a natural suit.

**Board 3**  
South Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ 9 8 3  
♥ 6  
♦ A K 8 7 6 3 2  
♣ J 6

♠ 10  
♥ A K J 10 9 3  
♦ 4  
♣ K Q 7 5 3

♠ Q 7 6 5 4  
♥ 8 7 4 2  
♦ Q J 10  
♣ 9

♠ A K J 2  
♥ Q 5  
♦ 9 5  
♣ A 10 8 4 2

West	North	East	South
2 ♥	3 ♦	3 ♥	1 ♣
4 ♥	All pass		Pass

West cannot make a Michaels Cue-Bid on this hand as they hold the opponent's suit.

Therefore, they make an Intermediate Jump Overcall in hearts. Once East shows heart support, West will raise to game and will only lose three aces.

Always treat the 1 ♣ as a natural suit.

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

♠ Q 9 6 5  
♥ 3  
♦ K 10 4  
♣ A 9 8 7 3

♠ A K 8  
♥ J 10 5 4  
♦ A J 7 6 3  
♣ 2

♠ J 10 7 3  
♥ A 9 7  
♦ Q 9 8 2  
♣ 6 5

♠ 4 2  
♥ K Q 8 6 2  
♦ 5  
♣ K Q J 10 4

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	All pass	

South's 2 ♦ bid shows at least five cards in each of the two unbid suits. This bid must not be alerted.

Although North has 5-card club support, they do not have sufficient values to invite game and therefore just bids 3 ♣. If East were to compete with 3 ♦, North is likely to call 4 ♣ which is the wrong decision as both 3 ♦ and 4 ♣ should be one down.

**Board 5**  
North Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ K 8 6 2  
♥ A Q 9 6 5  
♦ A 9 6  
♣ 8

♠ A Q 7  
♥ J 10 7 4 2  
♦ 3 2  
♣ 9 7 2

♠ J 4  
♥ 3  
♦ K Q 8 7 4  
♣ K J 10 6 3

♠ 10 9 5 3  
♥ K 8  
♦ J 10 5  
♣ A Q 5 4

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	1 ♥	2 NT	Dbl
All pass	Pass	Pass	Dbl

East's 2 NT shows both minors and must be alerted. South's first double shows value (10+ hcp) and normally suggests a willingness to penalise one or both minor suits. West gives preference to clubs with South's second double being for penalties.

If North leads trumps, the contract should two light as it cuts down a diamond ruff in declarer's hand.

**Board 6**  
East Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ 5  
♥ 10 2  
♦ K Q J 10 2  
♣ A J 10 7 3

♠ J 10 7 4  
♥ K Q J 9 4 3  
♦ A  
♣ K 4

♠ K Q 9 3  
♥ A 8 7 6  
♦ 7 4 3  
♣ 5 2

♠ A 8 6 2  
♥ 5  
♦ 9 8 6 5  
♣ Q 9 8 6

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	2 NT	3 ♥	Pass
5 ♥	All pass		5 ♣

North's 2 NT shows 5/5 in the minors and must be alerted.

South can anticipate that their opponents will bid 4 ♥ if allowed to do so.

South has a good hand for sacrificing in 5 of a minor and thus jumps to 5 ♣ giving their opponents a difficult decision about whether to defend or bid on to 5 ♥. While 5 ♥ should go one light, 5 ♣ will be difficult to beat.

**Board 7**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

♠ 8 5 4  
♥ J 10 6 3  
♦ A 8 3 2  
♣ 7 6

♠ 10  
♥ A K 9 7 4  
♦ 10 4  
♣ A Q 10 3 2

♠ K Q J 6 2  
♥ 5 2  
♦ 7  
♣ K J 9 8 5

♠ A 9 7 3  
♥ Q 8  
♦ K Q J 9 6 5  
♣ 4

West	North	East	South
2 NT	Pass	4 ♣	1 ♦
5 ♣	All pass		Pass

West's unusual 2 NT bid shows the two lowest unbid suits, ♣ and ♥ and must be alerted.

With their singleton diamond and 5-card club support, East jumps to 4 ♣ to invite game. West is strong enough to accept.

There is only one diamond and one spade to lose.

**Board 8**  
West Deals  
None Vul

♠ 5  
♥ A Q J 5 4  
♦ K J 8 6 4  
♣ Q 5

♠ A K 10 8 3  
♥ K 10 2  
♦ A 9 3  
♣ 10 6

♠ J 4  
♥ 9 7 6  
♦ 5 2  
♣ A J 8 7 4 3

♠ Q 9 7 6 2  
♥ 8 3  
♦ Q 10 7  
♣ K 9 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	All pass	

North's 2 ♠ shows hearts and a minor suit. This bid must not be alerted.

With no liking for hearts or game interest, South bids 3 ♣ asking their partner to pass if their minor is clubs or else bid 3 ♦.

North should be able to make 10 tricks thanks to the favourable lie in the heart suit.