

## ♠♥♦♣ WHY CUEBID? ♠♥♦♣

Cuebidding (bidding the opponents' suits) is used in many situations. A direct cuebid after RHO opens, is the Michaels variety. It shows 5-5 distribution in two of the unbid suits.

A cuebid after your partner opens or overcalls shows support for his suit and 10 or more points.

All other cuebids are game forcing and either ask for a stopper in the opponents' suit for a notrump game; or are merely a game force where the ultimate place to play still hasn't been decided.

You are the dealer on this board and you open 1♣.

S	South
♠	A6
♥	K5
♦	A3
♣	KQ96543

Your LHO overcalls 1♠ and your partner responds 2♥. RHO passes – what are your thoughts?

You have a big hand. With 16 HCP and a 7-card Club suit, you know you want to be in game, since 2♥ from partner promises at least 10 points. You also know that Clubs will be trump and you will not rule out a slam if your partner has the right cards.

A rebid of 3♣ is not forcing – only invitational. But you need to find out about your partner's Club suit. If you rebid 4♣ and partner has some Clubs, he will bid 5♣ and you will be too high to use Blackwood. You need to find out if you are off two Aces.

**This is an ideal spot for the forcing cuebid.** Rebidding 2♠ now will be taken by your partner as stopper-asking. That's okay because your next bid will clarify the situation for him.

Your partner bids 2NT showing a Spade stopper and now you can bid 3♣ to show a real Club suit and slam intentions. Remember, game is assumed so a low level Club bid says I'm not interested in Notrump. Rather, I want to know about your hand for a Club game or slam. Partner is forced to bid again and this time he shows his Club support with a 4♣ rebid.

Since you have controls in all the suits, the only thing left is to find out if you have either one or two of the missing Key Cards. Here is the total bidding sequence.

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	5 ♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	6 ♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	7 ♣/7NT
All Pass			

- 1 RKC - 1430
- 2 2 Key Cards
- 3 King Ask
- 4 2 Kings

After two rounds of Blackwood, you have confirmed possession of all the Aces and Kings. You can confidently bid either 7 ♣ or 7NT. Either way, you are assured of a top score by using Cuebidding.

West leads the ♠Q and partner lays down this dummy:


N	North
♠	K85
♥	AJ1087
♦	KQ
♣	A107

West's Lead: ♠Q

S	South
♠	A6
♥	K5
♦	A3
♣	KQ96543

You have no losers with these two hands. You can claim on the initial lead.

This is the entire deal:

 D	<b>N North</b> ♠ K85 ♥ AJ1087 ♦ KQ ♣ A107	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>3♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>5NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>6♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>7♠</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♠	2♥	P	2♠	P	2NT	P	3♣	P	4♣	P	4NT	P	5♥	P	5NT	P	6♥	P	7♠
	W	N	E	S																						
1♠	2♥	P	2♠																							
P	2NT	P	3♣																							
P	4♣	P	4NT																							
P	5♥	P	5NT																							
P	6♥	P	7♠																							
<b>W West</b> ♠ QJ10973 ♥ Q92 ♦ J109 ♣ 2	<b>E East</b> ♠ 42 ♥ 643 ♦ 876542 ♣ J8																									
	<b>S South</b> ♠ A6 ♥ K5 ♦ A3 ♣ KQ96543	7♣ S      NS: 0 EW: 0																								

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y68c245l>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.