

## CUE BID RAISES

What are cue bids? Cue bids are bids in an opponent's suit which are artificial and FORCING. They cannot be passed. Today we are emphasizing cue bid raises. But as part of our lesson, we will look at some hands to see how our bid might change depending on our position at the table, the vulnerability, and the bidding. The advantage of cue bid raises is that you can show 3 (or preferably 4) card support for partner's opening or overcall bids. Another major advantage is that it allows a jump to 3 in partner's suit to show 4 card support (or 5 card support in minor suits). It also differentiates the jump to 4 in partner's major suit, which is also preemptive, but shows 5 card support.

Let's say you are playing with your partner at a BIG EVENT and pick up this hand in 4th seat, vulnerable vs. not:

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

Your LHO bids 1♥, your pard overcalls 1♠, and your RHO passes. You certainly have enough HCPs to bid. What do you want to tell your partner? That you have a fair hand and support for his suit. What should you bid to convey that message? 2♠s? 3♠s? If you don't use cue bid raises, go ahead and bid 3♠s, showing a limit raise (or better?). But I suggest that this is a perfect time for a cue bid raise, so bid 2♥s! With 10HCPs (9 of them prime) and 4 trumps, you are heading for game. Of course, under these circumstances, vulnerability does not matter, you should always bid 2♥s

What if LHO bids 3♥s and pard and RHO pass? Partner's pass is probably showing a weak overcall, but I would bid 3♠s because we have 9 trumps and we still have a good chance of making it. What if RHO bids 4♥s? This is where I would draw the line. We are vulnerable and at great risk in 4♠s, especially if we get doubled.

If LHO passes and partner bids 2♠s, I would pass and let pard have an easy contract to play. But, if RHO bids 3♥s I would bid 3♠s.

Would you open this hand in first or second seat? I would hope not. What about in third seat after 2 passes? If you play Drury, I would consider opening this hand 1♠ nonvulnerable vs. vulnerable. I probably would open it, if we played 2 way Reverse Drury. Other pluses for opening this hand is that I would like a ♠ (or ♣ lead) and because it is the boss suit, it preempts the opponents. Since you have 14 Pierson Points, you might consider opening in fourth seat at favorable vulnerability as well.

Note that if you have passed in first or second seat, and partner opens 1♠ in third or fourth seat, your hand is perfect for a 2 way Drury 2♦ bid (if RHO passes again). Also note what might happen if you use a 3♠ bid to show a limit raise. TROUBLE if pard opened light.

How do things change if pard had opened 1♠ and RHO had overcalled 2♥s? Even tho you are one level higher, you should bid 3♥s. Since you have made a forcing call, if LHO

passes opener must bid; either 3 ♠s if not interested in game or 4 ♠s with a good hand.

Let's look at another hand. This time you pick up

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

My typical hand. YUCK! But things pick up when your pard opens 1 ♠. Whether your RHO passes, doubles or overcalls at the two level, because you are now using cue bid raises, you can bid 3 ♠s, preemptive, and you have now, hopefully, made your opponents' lives miserable. What fun! I would do this at any vulnerability because of your 9 card trump fit. You should not do it if pard opens in third or fourth seat, unless you are at favorable vulnerability. Unfortunately, this hand has little other use.

Finally, you get a nice opening hand, but unfavorable vulnerability:

♥ 7 5 2      ♠ A K 10 9 6      ♦ A 10 9      ♣ K 9

The bidding has gone 1 ♠ by your RHO, 2 ♥s by you, pass by your LHO and 2 ♠s by pard. What do you bid if RHO passes? What do you bid if RHO bids 3 ♠s? Why? Do your answers change if you had opened 1 ♥, LHO had overcalled 1 ♠, partner had bid 2 ♠s and RHO had passed? What if RHO had bid 3 ♠s? Suppose you are at favorable or equal vulnerability. Does your bidding change? What if you open 1 ♥, RHO overcalls 1 ♠, partner bids 3 ♥s and then LHO passes? What if LHO bids 3 ♠s?

Now consider this hand:

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

If partner opens 1 ♠ and RHO overcalls 2 ♥s, you could bid 3 ♥s, but I think the better bid is 3 ♦s. You have a balanced hand with 12 HCPS concentrated in the minors which is much better suited to playing NT. With stopper(s) in ♥s, a balanced hand and something in the minors, your partner could bid 3 NT, which you should gladly pass.. If partner rebids her suit, you can always raise to game. Note that if you had another ♠ and 1 less minor suit card, I would definitely bid 3 ♥s.