



Cue Bid to Show Limit Raise

Cue Bid - Definition

When the opponents bid, they give us the chance to bid their suit. Bidding the opponent's suit artificially is called a cue bid.

As beginners, we are taught to raise partner's overcall one level with 6-9 pts and to jump raise with 10-12pts, including distribution. Now that you are playing duplicate, you need a change in strategy.

Let's look at what happens when you bid this the old-fashioned way:					
West holds: ♠ AKxxx ♥ xxx ♦ xx ♣ xxx		South	West	North	East
East holds ♠ QJxx ♥ xxx ♦ xx ♣ AKQ		1C	1S	P	3S
		P	P	P	
East with a limit raise jumped to 3 spades. West unfortunately just had the minimum overcall, so the contract ends up to high. The opponents quickly took the first 5 tricks. Down one					

Now have a look at the recommended alternative:

East, holding a limit raise or better, should cue-bid the suit the opponents have bid. This will show 10 or more points and support for partner's suit				
With the above hand, here is how the bidding would go:				
South	West	North	East	
1C	1S	P	2C	
P	2S*			* shows a minimum hand.

Cue Bid Showing Limit Raise or Better

When partner opens or overcalls and we then cue bid the opponent's suit, this shows 8 losers or better (usually 10+ points) and support for partner's suit. This may be only 3-card support for partner's major. For example:

Part RHO US LHO
1H 1S 2S

Our 2S bid shows an 8-loser or better hand and heart support. The cue bid can also be for LHO's suit. For example:

LHO Part RHO US
1D 1H P 2D

Our 2D bid shows an 8-loser or better hand and support for partner's suit.

Preemptive Raise

One of the main benefits of using the cue bid to show support is that it frees up a jump to the three-level as preemptive because we no longer need it to show support and 10+ points. For example:

1H – 1S – 3H

The 3H bid is preemptive showing 0-5 points because with 10+ points we would have cue bid 2S.

Simple Raise

The raise to two of partner's suit still shows a 9-loser hand (usually 6-9 points).

Responding to a Cue Bid

When partner shows us 8-losers or better, our decision is easy. If we have 6 losers we go to game. If we have more than 6 losers, we signoff in our suit at the lowest level. If we have 5 losers, we control bid on the way to game in case partner has 7 losers and we can make a slam.

Cuebid Limit Raise

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

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

♠ 7 4 3 2
 ♥ 9 4 3
 ♦ Q 10 9 7 4
 ♣ 7

♠ A K Q 9 6
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ J 3
 ♣ 8 3 2

♠ J 8
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ 6 5 2
 ♣ A K Q J 9 5

EW 3♠; NS 3♣; NS 1N; EW 2♦; NS 1♥;
 Par -100: NS 4♣×-1

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

Cuebid Limit Raise

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A 7 3
 ♥ K J 9 6
 ♦ A Q 7 6 3
 ♣ 3

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

♠ J 9 8 5 4
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ J 6 5 4

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

NS 6♥; NS 6♦; S 5N; N 2N; Par +1400:
 EW 6♠×-6

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
2♣	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	All pass	

Cuebid Limit Raise

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ Q J 5 4
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ 8 6
 ♣ 9 7 6 3 2

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

♠ A K 7 3
 ♥ J 6 5 4
 ♦ A 9 4 2
 ♣ 5

♠ 10 9 6 2
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ K Q J 10
 ♣ A 8 4

EW 4♥; EW 2N; EW 2♦; NS 1♠; Par -500:
 NS 4♠×-3

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

Cuebid Limit Raise

Board 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul

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

♠ 8 2
 ♥ A 6 5 4 2
 ♦ A Q 10 8
 ♣ K 8

♠ 4 3
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ J 9 7 3
 ♣ 7 4 3 2

♠ Q J 6 5
 ♥ 8 7 3
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ A J 9 5

NS 3♠; EW 3♥; EW 3♦; NS 1N; NS 2♣;
 Par +140

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	All pass	