

WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

MICHAELS CUEBID

Patty Tucker



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Michaels Cuebid

Michaels Cuebid (Michaels)

Michaels has the following characteristics and rules. It is a bid that:

- Is a conventional bid (*a bid which has a different meaning than expected*).
- Is made by an overcaller.
- Has no minimum point range, but your partner would expect that you would have two of the top four honors or three of the top five.
- Is a two-suited hand with at least five cards in each suit.
- Has your points concentrated in those two long suits.
- Forces partner to bid (*if his right hand opponent passes*) regardless of the strength of his hand.
- Forces partner to bid, therefore the vulnerability will affect your decision. The less attractive the vulnerability, the stronger your hand should be in either high card points or distributional features. For example if you are vulnerable and the opponents are non-vulnerable, you should have a better hand.
- Forces partner to bid, therefore the level at which partner has to bid will affect your decision. The higher the level, the stronger your hand should be in either high card points or distributional features. For example if you are

forcing responder to bid at the three-level, you should have a better hand.

- Is typically a weak (*pre-emptive*) bid; though it can occasionally be very strong in either high card points or trick taking ability.

The theory behind this bid is twofold. Michaels:

- Allows overcaller the opportunity to show both his suits when he has a weak hand with relative safety.
- Allows responder to overcaller to make informed decisions in competitive auctions concerning how high the side should bid.
- Can sometimes make it difficult for the opponents to bid their hands easily and accurately.

Michaels is typically used to show major suits. After an opening bid of a minor suit at the one level, a “cuebid” (*bidding the suit the opponents have bid*) shows both majors.

Example:

| <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> |
|--------------|-------------|
|--------------|-------------|

1♣

2♣

or

1♦

2♦

East has shown at least five hearts and at least five spades and, typically, less than an opening hand. East's high card points will be concentrated in his two suits and he would typically not have more than one high card in the minor suits.

Examples of some typical hands:

♠AQ974 ♥KJ1032 ♦42 ♣5 – five spades, five hearts, less than an opening hand and points concentrated in hearts and spades with two honors in each suit.

♠KQ974 ♥AJ1032 ♦J2 ♣5 – five spades, five hearts, less than an opening hand and points concentrated in hearts and spades with two honors in each suit.

♠AQ974 ♥KQ1032 ♦4 ♣5 – five spades, five hearts, less than an opening hand and points concentrated in hearts and spades with two honors in each suit.

Some hands you would not bid Michaels after your opponent opens:

♠AQ974 ♥KJ1032 ♦A2 ♣5 – this hand is an opening hand. Overcall 1♠.

♠AQJ74 ♥AK1032 ♦42 ♣5 – this hand is an opening hand. Overcall 1♠.

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Michaels Cuebid

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the Michaels Cuebid convention.



PATTY TUCKER (Dunwoody, Georgia) is an ABTA Master Bridge Teacher and cofounder of Whirlwind Bridge and Atlanta Junior Bridge. Her success at the bridge table culminated in her victory in the 2000 Baldwin Flight A North American Open Pairs with long-time bridge partner Kevin Collins. Patty and Kevin were married in 2006.