



**Presents:**

# **The Cue Bid Raise**

Here at **LearnBridge.nyc** we define a **Cue Bid** as any bid in a suit that an opponent has already shown cards in. Let's take a look at two very common cue bid examples:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	1♠	2♠

Cue Bid

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♠	Pass
2♣	1♣		

Cue Bid

Notice how weird the Cue Bid looks?

Take the 1<sup>st</sup> hand: Why would South want to show the Spade suit after East already showed 5+ Spades?

Sounds like a perfect opportunity for us to use this bid for something else...

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	2♣	3♣
		10+ pts. 3+♠	



**Rule:** In a competitive auction, **after both sides have bid suits**, a bid of the **opponent's suit** will show:

1. Support for our partner's suit
  1. Support should be enough to guarantee an **8 card fit** or better.
2. 10+ total points
  1. Include your distribution because remember you have a fit!

Take our first hand here:

We know we have game and a fit so many of you may be asking; “*Why can’t we just bid 4 Spades?*”

While this will get you to your game, the direct bid of 4 Spades is actually a **Close Out Bid**, showing less than 10 points and 5+ Spades.

4 Spades is frequently your best spot on hands like this, but bidding it directly gives up on the opportunity to investigate slam.

The best feature of the **Cue Bid** is that it is absolutely **FORCING**, so as South we will always have another opportunity to bid. Our best course of action is always to show a Good Hand 1<sup>st</sup> and then place the contract 2<sup>nd</sup>.

So we should start with **3 CLUBS** on this hand (10+ pts. support for our partner’s suit)



**LearnBridge.nyc** reminder: Cue Bids are absolutely, **100% FORCING!!** Passing Cue Bids usually means you will be passing on the opportunity to play with your partner again 😊.



After our Cue Bid of 3 Clubs our partner bids 3 Spades. She is communicating that based on what we have shown her (10+ pts. and support), she does not have enough to bid game. Now we can bid 4 Spades to complete the description of our hand and get our side to game.

**The full deal is below:** You can see that North made the correct bid of 3 Spades because she did not have the values to play 4 Spades opposite our minimum of 10 points.



Let's take a look at the Cue Bid from the other side of the table. Here we have opened 1 Spade and our partner has made the cue bid of 3 Diamonds.

So what is our best call with the South hand?

In these situations, we should always ask ourselves “**Do we have enough for game?**”. Partner has shown at least 10 points and support for our Spade suit so the answer to this question is a solid YES.

Thus our correct bid will be **4 Spades**

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with a green background. At the top, a table displays the bidding sequence:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
2♦	3♦	Pass	

Below the table, the South hand is shown as a row of 13 cards: K♠, J♠, 8♠, 6♠, 4♠, A♥, K♥, K♣, 9♣, 8♣, 2♣, 4♦, 2♦. The cards are displayed with their respective suits and ranks. Below the hand, a button labeled 'S' with a lock icon and the text 'South - Click to Sit' is visible, along with a 'Robot' label on the right.

Here is the full deal:

The cue bid by North shows her values and her fit in one bid. Now South can confidently bid game in Spades.

We have seen the cue bid work from both sides of the table after our side opens the bidding.

Now let's discuss the other very common scenario where we might use a cue bid to show our hand....

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface with the following details:

- Teaching Board 3** (Board D)
- Bidding Area:** WEST: 2♦, 3♦, Pass, 4♠; NORTH: Pass, Pass, Pass; EAST: Pass, Pass, Pass; SOUTH: 1♠
- North Hand (N):** 10♠, 9♠, 7♠, 3♠, 10♥, 3♥, A♣, Q♣, 5♣, 4♣, K♦, J♦, 6♦
- West Hand (W):** A♠, Q♠, 7♥, 6♥, 5♥, J♣, 7♣, A♦, Q♦, 10♦, 9♦, 5♦, 3♦
- East Hand (E):** 5♠, 2♠, Q♥, J♥, 9♥, 8♥, 4♥, 2♥, 10♣, 6♣, 3♣, 8♦, 7♦
- South Hand (S):** K♠, J♠, 8♠, 6♠, 4♠, A♥, K♥, K♣, 9♣, 8♣, 2♣, 4♦, 2♦
- Player Names:** North - Click to Sit (Robot), West - Click to Sit (Robot), East - Click to Sit (Robot), South - Click to Sit (Robot)
- Score:** 4♠ S, NS 0, EW 0



On this deal the opponent has opened the bidding and we have overcalled 1 Spade. The cue bid by North shows the same thing as usual; 10+ points and support for Spades. Now when we ask ourselves "Do we have enough for game?" the answer is NO. So our response should be just 2 Spades.

Below is the full deal:

Notice how using the cue bid keeps us at a much lower level, while still investigating game possibilities.

**Note:** If we know we do not have enough for game we should always try to stay as low as possible!





Learn**Bridge.nyc**  
Advanced Topic Ahead

Sometimes when our partner cue bids we may see the possibility of Slam in our hand.

When this happens we have a good way to investigate.

**RULE:** When responding to partner's support showing cue bid, any new suit at the Game Level (4 level) will show 1<sup>st</sup> round control in that suit.

As South on this hand we should at least entertain the real possibility that our side could play slam. To start this conversation a bid of 4 Clubs will do two things:

1. It will show 1<sup>st</sup> round control in Clubs
2. It will show interest in playing Slam

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, the seating is WEST, NORTH, EAST, SOUTH. The bidding sequence is: WEST bids 2♥, NORTH bids 3♥, EAST passes, and SOUTH bids 1♠. Below the bidding area, the hand for South is shown: K♠, Q♠, J♠, 9♠, 7♠, 3♠, A♥, A♣, 7♣, J♦, 8♦, 5♦, 2♦. The interface includes player names 'Robot' and 'E' (East) and 'S' (South) with a lock icon and the text 'South - Click to Sit' and 'Robot'.

Alas, with an absolute minimum our partner correctly signs off in 4 Spades and our auction ends.

If the North hand had more values, and interest in slam, it could continue the conversation by either bidding a control of its own (i.e. 4D on this hand) or by bidding Keycard.

Notice though that North should never have interest on this hand.

Balanced 10 counts usually do not play well opposite hands that didn't open 2 Clubs 😊.

Teaching Board 11  
D

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
 2♥ 3♥ Pass 4♣  
 Pass 4♠ Pass Pass  
 Pass

N North - Click to Sit Robot

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

W West - Click to Sit Robot

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

E East - Click to Sit Robot

K Q J 9 7 3 A A 7 J 8 5 2  
 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦  
 S South - Click to Sit Robot

4♠ S NS 0 EW 0

Visit [LearnBridge.nyc](https://www.learnbridge.nyc) for more free content.