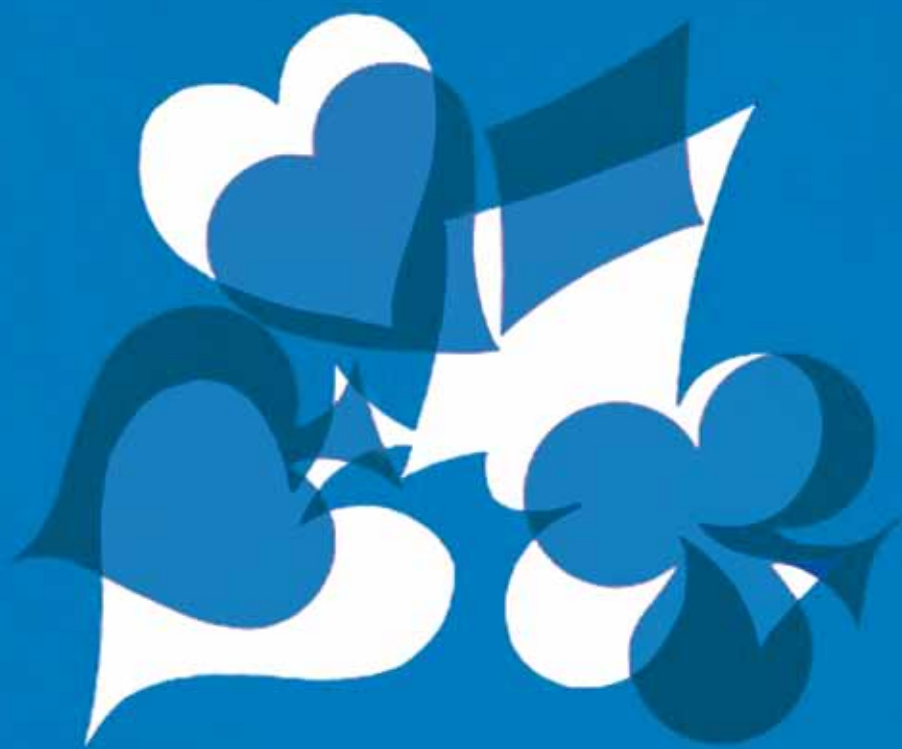


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

CUEBIDDING IN COMPETITIVE AUCTIONS

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Cuebidding in Competitive Auctions

Cuebidding in Competitive Auctions

There are many types of cuebids and the meaning of the cuebid changes according to the auction and the situation you find yourself facing.

Let's concentrate on cuebids made in competitive auctions which show limit raise (or better) hands in support of partner's suit. The phrase 'in support of partner's suit' is key. This indicates that you know that you and partner have a fit and it allows you to use **distributional and high card point values** in determining the strength of your hand.

This type of cuebid:

- Is always made by responder – whether that be responder to the opening bidder or responder to an overcaller (sometimes called '*advancer*' which is the terminology that will be used in this text);
- Is created by bidding the suit bid by an opponent;
- Is bid at the lowest level possible;
- Can be bid in support of a major or minor suit; and
- Always shows a limit raise or better in support of partner's suit.

Examples (you and partner are always North/South):

<u>Hand 1</u>				<u>Hand 2</u>			
North	East	South	West	North	East	South	West
1♥	1♠	2♠		1♣	1♥	2♥	

Hand 1 - South (responder) bids 2♠, cuebidding the suit the opponent overcalled (spades) in order to show a limit raise or better (10+) in support of hearts (the suit opened by North).

Hand 2 - South (responder) bids 2♥, cuebidding the suit the opponent overcalled (hearts) in order to show a limit raise or better (10+) in support of clubs (the suit opened by North).

<u>Hand 3</u>				<u>Hand 4</u>			
North	East	South	West	North	East	South	West
1♥	1♠	P	2♥	1♥	1♠	2♠	3♥

Hand 3 - West (advancer) bids 2♥, cuebidding the suit the opponent opened (hearts) in order to show a limit raise or better (10+) in support of spades (the suit overcalled by East).

Hand 4 - South (responder) bids 2♠, cuebidding the suit the opponent overcalled (spades) in order to show a limit raise or better (10+) in support of hearts (the suit opened by North).

West (advancer) bids 3♥, cuebidding the suit the opponent opened (hearts) in order to show a limit raise or better (10+) in support of spades (the suit overcalled by East).

Note: In Hand 4 you might wonder “How can there be this many points in one deck of cards?”. The answer is simple. Remember that the cuebids showed a limit raise or better *in support of partner’s suit*. Distributional features such as singletons, voids, extra trumps and second suits can play a major role in evaluating these types of hands.

Cuebidding in Support of Partner’s Major Opening Bid

When your partner has bid a major suit you will generally be trying to discover if you have, between your two hands, the value to play game in that major suit. In some cases this will allow you to stay at a lower level when investigating whether game is possible. Staying at this lower level would allow the use of *Help Suit Game Tries* if your side is considering game. *Cuebidding Controls* would be used if opener

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Cuebidding in Competitive Auctions

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 Cuebidding in Competitive Auctions 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.