

## REOPENING CUE BID OVERCALLS

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	Pass	2♣

This is not a top-and-bottom cue bid, which does not apply in a reopening situation. Instead, it is a two-way call showing either a weakish three-suited hand with a singleton or void in clubs, or a normal strong cue bid. For a passed hand, the cue bid can be based on either a two-suited or three-suited hand. See section 8-5, Defensive Bidding by a Passed Hand.

If the cue bid is weak, 5-4-4 is the ideal distribution, but 4-4-4-1 is normal. The maximum is about 10 HCP, since the weak cue bid tends to deny two defensive tricks. With ♠ void ♥QJ32 ♦AJ1054 ♣Q873, after 1♠-P-P bid 2♠ rather than make a takeout double. The danger is that partner might pass a double, expecting a little more defense from you. But with ♠4 ♥AJ32 ♦A875 ♣9842, a double is okay because you have a couple of defensive tricks and a spade to lead through declarer if partner should pass.

### Responses

Partner assumes that the cue bidder has made a weak three-suited takeout, and bids accordingly. He gives partner about 7-8 HCP and bids the limit of his hand immediately. A 2NT response is not invitational; it will always be passed by a weak cue bidder.

A jump response is invitational, asking partner to raise with a maximum weak cue bid (9-10 HCP). With a weak cue bid, partner must raise or pass. If the cue bidder bids a new suit (or bids again when not invited) opposite partner's jump response, she shows a strong cue bid. See section 10-4 for a discussion of strong cue bid overcalls.

The strong type of cue bid may be a little weaker than a direct cue bid overcall, but not much. The minimum for a strong reopening cue bid of 2♠ is something like: ♠ void ♥AK54 ♦Q10876 ♣KQ96. With anything weaker, down to a weak cue bid, just make a takeout double.

A repeat cue bid by an unpassed hand also confirms a strong takeout:

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

The cue bidder has a strong hand, but whether he has spade support or a strong two-suiter in hearts/diamonds is not yet clear. West assumes the latter and shows a preference for one of these two suits, jumping with anything of value. With ♠108763 ♥KJ3 ♦J7 ♣Q83 West should jump to 4♥, since 3♥ could be passed.

A new suit bid by a passed hand cue bidder definitely shows a two-suiter, but not a strong hand:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦ - diamonds and hearts, not forcing			

South has ♠3 ♥Q10874 ♦AQ8732 ♣6. If not a passed hand, South would have to reopen with 1♦ or 1♥.

A hand that passes an opposing bid and then reopens with a cue bid later is normally making a natural bid:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠ - natural,	not forcing	

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♠ - natural,
not forcing			

There is one exception:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♦ - takeout for the majors		

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♣ - takeout for the majors		

After a 1NT response to a minor, the opponents will almost always have at least six cards between them in that suit, probably more. The reopening cue bid in this case is therefore more useful as a major suit takeout than as a natural bid. Rather than double, which is primarily for business, you cue bid the minor to ask for a major.

### **Jump Cue Bid Reopening**

Reopening the bidding with a jump cue bid asks partner to bid 3NT if he has the opposing suit stopped.