

CUE BID ADVANCES OF OVERCALLS

Responses to overcalls are technically known as "advances," and overcaller's partner is the "advancer." Most cue bid advances of overcalls are discussed in section 10-12, Probing Cue Bids. Also see section 8-2, Responding to Simple Overcalls; section 8-4, Notrump Overcalls; and section 10-1, Cue Bids - General.

Non-Jump Cue Bids

If RHO comes in with a raise over a major suit overcall, a cue bid serves to distinguish a strong jump raise from a weaker jump raise. There is no two-level room to cue bid and then raise the suit to three, so the cue bid must carry the strong raise meaning:

South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	2♥	3♥

If West has extra values for the overcall, she can bid game. If South now bids 4♥, West should not be too quick to bid 4♠ unless she thinks she can make it, because the cue bid shows good defensive potential in addition to trump support.

When the opposing raise comes over a minor suit overcall, the cue bid asks for a stopper in the opposing suit:

South	West	North	East
1♦	2♣	2♦	3♦

East has high cards in clubs and a good hand, but no diamond stopper. If West has a normal overcall with diamonds stopped, he bids 3NT. Otherwise he just makes the bid that best serves to further describe his hand. This is a "probing cue bid," discussed in section 10-12.

If RHO comes in with a new suit, the strong raise of a major suit is shown by a cue bid of responder's suit, while a bid of opener's suit is natural and non-forcing, showing the suit:

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♠	2♥	3♥ - strong spade raise
			2♠ - weak spade raise
			3♠ - too good for 2♠
			3♣ - long club suit

Remember that the "strong raise" cue bid applies only over a new suit bid or a raise, not over a pass or negative double. Further, it applies to major suit overcalls only. After a minor suit overcall, the cue bid asks for a stopper. See section 08-02, Responding to Simple Overcalls; and section 10-12, Probing Cue Bids.

If RHO responds 1NT, advancer would double with a strong raise. A bid of opener's suit is natural:

South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	1NT	2♥ - natural, long hearts

East has long solid hearts and not much in high cards: ♠4 ♥QJ108762 ♦A54 ♣62

Jump Cue Bid Advance

A jump cue bid shows a playable holding in the suit if the opponents have bid the suit only once:

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♥	1♠	3♣/3♠

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♥	Pass	3♠

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♦	1♥	3♣/3♥

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♣	Pass	3♠

These jump cue bids are natural and not forcing. There is no other way to show playable strength/length in the opposing suit. Splinter bids are not used in support of an overcall.

A jump cue bid advance when opener has been raised shows excellent support for the overcall and a void:

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♦/1♥/1♠	2♣	4♣ - club void