

Practise the Unassuming Cue Bid and Responses

<p>1 Dir: West Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South 1♣ 1♠ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ K 10 7 ♥ A 8 7 5 ♦ Q J 9 2 ♣ J 5</p>	<p>Answer: 2♣</p> <p>North has at least five spades, so there is an 8+ card fit. South has 11 HCP so is strong enough to make a UCB, which promises an 8 loser hand or better. If North has an 8 loser hand he will use the Losing Trick Count and bid 2♠. With a 7 loser hand he will bid 3♠, which South will pass.</p>
<p>2 Dir: West Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South 1♣ 1♠ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ K 10 7 4 ♥ A Q 7 5 ♦ A J 9 ♣ J 5</p>	<p>Answer: 2♣</p> <p>This South hand is considerably stronger than the previous hand, 15 HCP and just 7 losers. There is no upper limit for an Unassuming Cue Bid. If North rebids 2♠ showing minimum overcall and 8 losers, South will pass. If North rebids 3♠ showing 7 losers, South will bid 4♣.</p>
<p>3 Dir: East Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South Pass 2♠ 1♠ 2♥ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ K 7 ♥ K Q 10 7 6 4 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ 10 2</p>	<p>Answer: 4♥</p> <p>North's UCB promises an 8 loser hand or better. South has a 6 loser hand. Using the Losing Trick Count, $8 + 6 = 14$. $18 - 14 = 4$. So South can bid game.</p>
<p>4 Dir: West Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South 1♣ 1♥ 1♠ ?</p>	<p>South ♠ A 4 ♥ A J 8 ♦ Q 9 4 3 2 ♣ 10 7 5</p>	<p>Answer: 2♣</p> <p>East's response to West's opening bid shouldn't discourage South from making an Unassuming Cue Bid. 4♥ may well be makeable if partner has a 6 loser hand. If North has a minimum 8 loser hand she can bid 2♥, which South will pass.</p>
<p>5 Dir: East Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South Pass 2♣ 1♣ 1♠ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ A Q 9 3 2 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ 2 ♣ J 7 6</p>	<p>Answer: 2♥</p> <p>North might only have 10-12 points for her UCB, but South has a 7 loser hand, and if North also has a 7 loser hand then 4♠ might well make. South could show her extra strength by jumping to 3♠, but can make a more economical bid by bidding her second suit, hearts. This shows extra strength, but keeps the bidding lower. North can show a minimum UCB hand by rebidding 2♠, which South will pass. If instead North jumps to 3♠, South can continue to 4♠.</p>
<p>6 Dir: East Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South Pass 2♣ 1♣ 1♥ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ K 9 7 4 ♥ K J 8 5 2 ♦ 10 6 ♣ K 3</p>	<p>Answer: 3♥</p> <p>North has made an unassuming cue bid (UCB), showing 8 losers or better. South has a better than minimum overcalling hand (7 losers) and shows this by jumping to 3♥. Note that although South has four spades there is no advantage in bidding 2♠ (as in the previous example) to show a better than minimum hand because it takes the bidding beyond 2♥.</p>