

When the opponents have bid a suit, a No Trump bid by us promises a stopper in that suit. Without a stopper we can sometimes cue bid the opponent's suit to ask partner for a stopper, but we have to be careful as there are various auctions where a cue bid of the opponent's suit may have a special meaning depending on what conventions the partnership is using.

## Special Meanings of A Cue Bid Of The Opponent's Suit

1. Directly over an opening bid:  
**Michaels Cue Bid** showing 5-5 in the majors.
  2. In response to partner's overcall:  
**Unassuming Cue Bid** asking for more information about the overcall hand.
  3. In response to partner's takeout double:  
Shows a game forcing hand and asks the doubler to describe their hand.
- ....and also various situations others depending on our partnership agreements.

## When the cue bid of the opponent's suit doesn't have a special meaning

Providing the cue bid of the opponent's suit doesn't have a special meaning, a bid of the opponent's suit is a **forcing** enquiry typically asking about stoppers for No Trumps. We just need to be careful that we have enough combined strength to play at the level that partner will need to bid at.

## Responding to partner's stopper asking bid

Bid No Trumps at the lowest level or make another descriptive bid.

### Examples

W	N	E	S	East
		1♠	2♦	♠ A Q J 6
2♥	Pass	3♦		♥ A 6
				♦ 7 5 4
				♣ A K 9 8

East opens 1♠ planning to rebid No Trumps. When South overcalls with 2♦ East can't rebid 3NT as planned but can use 3♦ to ask West to bid 3NT with a stopper. If West has no diamond stopper he will make another bid to describe his hand.

W	N	E	S	East
		1♥	Pass	♠ A 6
1♠	2♦	Pass		♥ A K 8 6
				♦ 7 5 4
				♣ A J 9 8

When North overcalls with 2♦ East can't rebid No Trumps as planned without a diamond stopper. In any case he only has 16 points. A 3♦ cue bid might lead to 3NT and East has not even enough for a 2NT rebid after a one level response. He must pass.

W	N	E	S	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣	♠ A Q J 9 7
2♥	Pass	3♣		♥ 10 4
				♦ A K 9
				♣ 7 5 4

Here, South's 2♣ bid is actually helpful to East as it gives him another available bid. The best contract might be 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠. East's 3♣ cue bid forces West to give more information about his hand. West might bid No Trumps with a club stopper or show 3 spades or 6 hearts.