

Deal 1

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 5 2**♥ K J 5 2****♦ A 10 9****♣ J 9 4****10
9 14
7****♠ K 9 3****♥ 7 4****♦ Q J 6 5****♣ A 8 3 2**

W	N
S	E

♠ A 7**♥ Q 6****♦ K 8 7 4 2****♣ K Q 10 5****♠ Q J 8 6 4****♥ A 10 9 8 3****♦ 3****♣ 7 6***West**North**East**South*

Pass

2 ♠

1 ♦

2 ♦

Pass

2 ♠ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

A perfect Michaels example; 5-5 in the Majors and 9 points. You bid 2 ♦ and partner says 2 ♠. What do you bid next?

You have a rather minimum Michaels type hand and you asked partner to choose a Major suit. He chose ♠s. But don't start thinking about what great support you have for his ♠ suit, he doesn't HAVE a ♠ suit, he is just supporting yours. In other words, you pass.

Deal 2

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 5**♠ 4****♥ J 2****♦ K Q 3 2****♣ A K Q 8 4 2****♠ A 10 8 6 3**
♥ A 10 9 7 4
♦ 8 6
♣ K Q 7 2
♥ Q 6 5
♦ 9 7 4
♣ J 10 3**8**
15 8
9
♣ 9 7 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have a fair hand with a guaranteed 8-card fit in either Major. You are not, however, strong enough to jump the bidding. So you bid 2♥, which is passed out.

Deal 3

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K 10 9 8 3**♥ A 10 6****♦ J 6 5****♣ 4 2****♠ A 6 4 2****♥ Q 8 7 3****♦ Q 3****♣ A 9 5**

♠ Q J
♥ K J 5 4 2
♦ A 8 2
♣ 10 8 7

♠ 7 5**♥ 9****♦ K 10 9 7 4****♣ K Q J 6 3***West**North**East**South*

8
12
11
9

Pass

3 ♣

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 ♣ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have a pretty good hand for an Unusual Notrump, but not so good that you wouldn't use the convention. You bid 2 NT and partner says 3 ♣. What do you say next?

As mentioned, you have a pretty good hand, but partner only bid because you forced him to and he showed nothing more than minimum. So you pass.

Deal 4

West Deals	♦ 9 6		
None Vul	♥ 4		
	♦ K Q J 8 4		
	♣ K Q 10 7 5		
♠ A Q 10 8 3 2	♠ K 4		
♥ Q 6	♥ K 10 8 5 2		
♦ A 10	♦ 7 3 2		
♣ 9 8 4	♣ A 6 3		
	♠ J 7 5		
11			
12 10	♥ A J 9 7 3		
7	♦ 9 6 5		
	♣ J 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 ♦ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Your best suit is ♥s. But partner didn't ask you to bid ♥s, he asked you to pick a Minor. You know you will have an 8-card fit in ♦s so you take the safe approach and bid 3 ♦. Everybody passes.

Deal 5

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K 5 4
♥ A Q 6
♦ K Q 10 8 4 2
♣ 8

♠ 8 6 3
♥ K 7 5 3 2
♦ A 9 7 5
♣ Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q J 10 9 2
♥ —
♦ J 3
♣ A 9 7 6 4

9
14 12
5
♣ K J 10 5 3 2

West *North* *East* *South*

Pass 4 ♥
 Pass
 4 ♥ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Of course you bid a Michaels Cue-Bid of 2 ♠. Partner says 4 ♥.

Partner's jump might indicate he has a really good hand, or he might just have a really good fit. You certainly don't have the strength to make another move so you pass. A good thing, too. Partner might get lucky and make this but it looks like the other guys are cold for 4 ♠. Even if partner loses 2 ♥ tricks and goes down 1 it will turn out to be a good sacrifice.

Deal 6East Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 5 3 2
 ♥ 10 8 5
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ 9 6 4 3

22
 o 11
 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K 10 6
 ♥ A K J 9
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ K J 2

♠ Q J 9
 ♥ Q 7 4 3 2
 ♦ A Q 4 2
 ♣ 7

♠ 7 4
 ♥ 6
 ♦ J 9 8 7 3
 ♣ A Q 10 8 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♥	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have no idea what you can make with this hand. Slam in one of the minors may be possible, but maybe not. You decide to try 3 NT.

Deal 7

East Deals

None Vul

♣ KOJ

♦ K Q 8

* R100342
♥ 75

✓ / 5
▲ 6

16

♦ 10 9 4 3

16

♠ Q J
♥ K 10 3 2
♦ A 7
♣ A 8 7 6 5

West

North *East*

South

Pass

Pass

4 ♦ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With the two lowest unbid suits you bid 2 NT. Partner jumps to 4♦. What do you bid?

Partner probably has a good hand, but he might just be preempting. Assuming he is inviting you to bid game you have a tough decision. You are not very strong but you might have been a couple of points weaker. It is strictly a judgement call and we decide to pass.

As you can see, IF they open the lead with a ♣, and IF the ♥ finesse then works, you can make 5♦.

Deal 8West Deals
None Vul

♠ 5 2	♠ K 9 8 7 4		
♥ A K 5 2	♥ Q J 10 9 6		
♦ K Q 10 9	♦ 5		
♣ J 6 2	♣ 7 4		
	♠ Q 3		
	♥ 8 3		
	♦ J 8 4 3 2		
	♣ K Q 8 3		
	♠ A J 10 6		
13 6	♥ 7 4		
13 8	♦ A 7 6		
13	♣ A 10 9 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass

Pass
4♠ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

As you have figured out by now, using Michaels Cue-Bids / Unusual Notrump is sometimes hard to tie down. Here you have 13/14 points and if you figure partner for 9 that won't be enough for game. But, those two Minor Aces are worth a lot when you figure partner has only 3 Minor suit cards.

So let's say you decide to just invite with 3♠. Partner takes you to game.

You will surely make this game if trumps split 2-2. If they don't then you will have to hope for a defensive mistake.

Deal 9

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A 8 6 5 4
 ♥ A 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A Q 9 7 3

8
 14 9
 9

♠ 10
 ♥ Q J 9 8 4
 ♦ K J 10 5 3
 ♣ J 2



♠ 9 3 2
 ♥ K 10 7 5 3
 ♦ A Q 8 2
 ♣ 10

♠ K Q J 7
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 9 7 4
 ♣ K 8 6 5 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 ♦ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With 5 cards in the "other" Major and a 5-card Minor you bid 2 ♠, Michaels of course. Partner bids 2 NT. What do you say next?

Is it possible that partner wants to play Notrump? Not at all. He hates ♥'s and wants you to bid your Minor suit. So you say 3 ♦ and he passes.

Deal 10West Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 4 2
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ A 9 2
 ♣ K J 8 2

¹⁷
 13 3
 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q
 ♥ A K Q 8 3
 ♦ Q J 10 5 4
 ♣ 3

♠ 9 8 7 5 3
 ♥ J 10 9 6
 ♦ 8
 ♣ Q 7 4

♠ 10 6
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ K 7 6 3
 ♣ A 10 9 6 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	2 NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

5♦ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner asked you to choose between ♥s and ♦s so you bid 3♦. He then raises you to 4♦. What do you bid?

If you say to yourself "I only have 7 HCP" then you might pass. But if you say "Partner invited me to bid game, even though I might have no points and only 3 trumps. I'm a lot better than that.", then you will accept the invitation. So you bid 5♦ and everybody passes.

Deal 11

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ A K Q 7 4
♦ 2
♣ A J 7

13
14 **1**
12

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q J 6 5
♥ 9
♦ A Q 10 5 3
♣ 6 3

♠ —
♥ 10 8 3
♦ J 9 8 7 4
♣ 10 9 8 4 2

♠ K 10 9 3
♥ J 6 5 2
♦ K 6
♣ K Q 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With 5 cards in the "other" Major and a 5-card Minor suit this looks like an ideal Michaels Cue-Bid, right? No, not really. While it would not be a capital offense to bid 2 ♥ here, it generally works out better with 13-16 point hands to just overcall in your higher-ranking suit. You bid 1 ♠. Partner responds 2 ♥. What do you bid?

Partner's cue-bid shows a limit-raise or better in ♠s. So you bid 4 ♠ without the blink of an eye.

Deal 12

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K J 7 5 4
 ♥ Q 3
 ♦ 8 4 2
 ♣ 9 3 2

9
6 18
7

♠ 6
 ♥ K 6 4 2
 ♦ K 10 9 3
 ♣ K 8 6 5

W	N	E	S

♠ Q 2
 ♥ A J 10 9 7 5
 ♦ A Q J 6
 ♣ A

♠ A 10 9 8 3
 ♥ 8
 ♦ 7 5
 ♣ Q J 10 7 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 NT	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 ♣

3 ♣ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner is 5-5 in ♠s and one of the Minor suits. Forget ♠s, you want him to bid the Minor. So you bid 2 NT. Partner says 3 ♣.

Partner only made a minimum bid, so you have no choice but to pass.

Deal 13East Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 9 4
 ♥ 8 6 2
 ♦ 10 6 4
 ♣ J 10 8

4
 3 17
 16

West

♠ 7 6 2
 ♥ J 9 5
 ♦ Q J 8
 ♣ 7 5 4 2

W	N
E	S

♠ J
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ A K 9 7 3 2
 ♣ K Q 9 6

♠ A K 8 5 3
 ♥ K Q 10 7 4
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 ♥ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With 18 points and 5-5 Major suits you are up in the high-level Michaels category. You bid 2 ♦ and partner responds 2 ♥. What do you bid next?

Yes, you have a high-level Michaels hand but don't get carried away. Remember that you forced partner to bid. Any bid at all by you at this point will show 17+ points, so you just raise to 3 ♥. Partner has a weak hand and passes.

Deal 14West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 2
 ♥ K Q J 7
 ♦ A J
 ♣ K J 10 3 2

9
 19 5
 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 9 4
 ♥ A 10 9 6 4
 ♦ K Q 6 5 2
 ♣ 8

♠ Q J 10 8 7 6 5
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ A 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	2 NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3♠ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner wants you to bid ♥s or ♦s. You figure that in either of the red suits you will have a 7-card fit. You hope to do better than that in ♠s. So you bid 3♠ and everybody passes.

Deal 15
East Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 5
♥ 10 9 5 2
♦ A K J 9
♣ 10 5 2

2
8 12
18

West North East South
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♣
Pass Pass Pass 4 ♠
4 ♠ by North

♠ J 9 4 3
♥ J 6
♦ 10 7 6 4
♣ 9 7 6

N
W E
S

♠ A 7
♥ 8 3
♦ Q 8 3 2
♣ K Q J 8 4

♠ K Q 10 6 2
♥ A K Q 7 4
♦ 5
♣ A 3

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have 20 points and two good 5-card Majors so you bid a Michaels 2 ♣. Partner responds 2 ♣. What do you say next?

Partner may have as few as zero points and as many as 13 or so. You COULD bid an invitational 3 ♣, but if he has only 5 or 6 points he will pass. Looking at your hand you only need to find partner with ♠ J x x to have a good shot at game. So go ahead and bid 4 ♣.

Will you look at that. Partner has only 2 points, but what great ones to have!

Deal 16West Deals
None Vul

♠ J	♦ A K Q J 8 6	♣ J 10 4 2
♥ 7 5		
♦ A K Q J 8 6		
♣ J 10 4 2		

7	♠ A 6
12 5	♥ K Q 10 8
16	♦ 7 4 2

N	W	E	S

♠ K 9 8 5 2	♦ 10 5	♣ 9
♥ A 9 4 3 2		
♦ 10 5		
♣ 9		

♠ Q 10 7 4 3	♦ 9 3	♣ Q 8 7 3
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♦ 9 3	♣ Q 8 7 3
-------	-----------

♣ A K 6 5

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	2 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner has 5 of each Major suit so you know of a good 9-card ♥ fit. You have a nice hand and must decide between inviting with 3 ♥ or bidding the game on your own. You decide to bid the game so you say 4 ♥ and everybody passes.

Deal 17

West Deals	♦ 4 ♥ 6		
None Vul	♦ K 8 7 5 2		
	♣ Q J 9 7 6 4		
♠ K J 10 9 8 2	♠ Q 6 5		
♥ 7 2	♥ Q J 10 9 8 5 4 3		
♦ 10 9	♦ J 4		
♣ A K 2	♣ —		
	♠ A 7 3		
6	♥ A K		
11 6	♦ A Q 6 3		
17	♣ 10 8 5 3		
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
5 ♣ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

This is a really good hand for Unusual Notrump. You bid 2 NT and partner says 3 ♠. What do you say now?

Partner apparently has a big hand. His cue-bid is forcing, and probably means he wants to be in game. But for now you can just show your minimum strength and give a suit preference. You bid 4 ♣ and partner raises to 5 ♣.

Deal 18

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 7 5 3

♥ A 9 8 4 2

♦ K 5

♣ 4

10
10 6
14

♠ K 9 2

♥ 10 7 5

♦ 6 3

♣ A Q J 3 2


 ♠ 10 4
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ Q 10 9 7 4 2
 ♣ K 6 5

 ♠ A 8 6
 ♥ K Q 3
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ 10 9 8 7

West North East South

1 ♣

 2 ♣ 3 ♣ Pass Pass
 Pass
 3 ♣ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Many times at Bridge you want to fight for the contract. This isn't one of them. With 6 HCP and only four cards total in partner's two suits just let the opponents have it. You pass.

Deal 19

East Deals

None Vul

	♠ 7		
	♥ 6 2		
	♦ A 6 4		
	♣ A K Q 8 7 4 3		
♠ 9 8 3		♠ A K J 4	
♥ J 5		♥ A 10 8 4	
♦ J 10 9 8 5	W N E	♦ K Q 3 2	
♣ 10 6 2	S	♣ 5	
		♠ Q 10 6 5 2	
13		♥ K Q 9 7 3	
2 17		♦ 7	
8		♣ J 9	
West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 ♣ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With two 5-card Majors of course you bid 2 ♦. Partner responds 3 ♣. What do you say now?

This wasn't according to your script. Partner was supposed to choose a Major. The reason he didn't, of course, is that he didn't like either one and figured you would be better in ♣s. So you pass.

Deal 20
West Deals
None Vul

♠ K J 10 5 2
♥ A 9 7 4 3
♦ 6 2
♣ 10

♠ 9 3 ♠ A 6
♥ Q 8 ♥ K J 2
♦ K Q 10 9 3 ♦ A J 8 5 4
♣ K Q 6 4 ♣ J 8 3

8 ♠ Q 8 7 4
12 14 ♥ 10 6 5
6 ♦ 7
♣ A 9 7 5 2

West North East South
1♦ 2♦ 3♦ 3♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass
3♠ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You don't have a great hand but you DO have 4 ♠s. So don't let the opponents have a 3-level contract when your side has 9 ♠s. Bid 3♠.

Note: See the Law of Total Tricks Lesson on this topic.