Cue-bids Palo Alto Lecture Series

A "cue-bid" is a bid of a suit that has already been bid by opponents. This bid in the enemy suit does not suggest that suit as trump but forces Partner to bid.

(A slam-investigatory bid made during the auction's later rounds might be called a "cue-bid". This use of the term "cue-bid" is old-fashioned; the modern term is "control-bid".)

1] After an overcall, it promises a fit for Opener's suit and at least game-invitational strength. <Alternative agreement: game-forcing strength> A new suit bid by Responder would have been forcing, so the cue-bid promises a fit:

Opener	Overcaller	Responder
1♥	1 🚓	2. (Responder's cue-bid promises a fit)

2] After we open 1NT, the cue-bid is Staymanic and asks Opener to bid a four-card major-suit.

Opener	Overcaller	Responder
1NT	2 🔥	3. (asks Opener to show a four-card
Heart suit)		

3] After we overcall, the cue-bid shows a hand with at least game-invitational strength. <Alternative agreement: game-forcing strength> A new suit bid by Advancer would not have been forcing, so the cue-bidder might have a game-forcing hand without a fit:

Opener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer
1♥	1 🚓	Pass	2♥ (cue-bidding Advancer
may have either	a fit or big ha	and lacking a f	fit)

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4] After our takeout double, a cue-bid advance shows a hand with at least game-invitational strength <Alternative agreement: game-forcing strength>:

Opener	Doubler	Responder	Advancer
1♥	Dbl	Pass	2 🕶

A takeout double followed by a cue-bid shows a very strong hand:

Opener	Doubler	Responder	Advancer
1♥	Dbl	Pass	1 🔥
Pass	2♥ (at least		

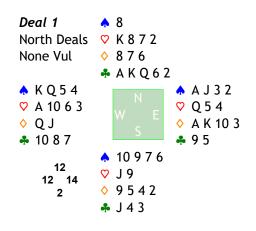
5] Cue-bid rebid by Opener or Responder after a Negative Double shows game-forcing strength

Opener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer			
1.	1♥	Double	Pass			
2♥ (at least 19 points)						
Opener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer			
1.	1 ♥	Double	Pass			
2*	Pass	2♥ (at least	13 points)			

Partner of cue-bidder usually shows a stopper if one is held.

6] Immediate cue-bid (Michaels)

A Michaels cue-bid is made directly over the enemy one-of-a-suit opening bid or 1NT response. It shows at least 5-5 in two unbid suits.



West	North	East	South
	1 🚣	Dbl	Pass
2 🚓	Dbl	2 💠	Pass
2♡	Pass	2 🔥	Pass
4 🔥	All pass		

4 ♠ by East Lead: ♣ 3

Made 4 - EW +420

Bidding Commentary:

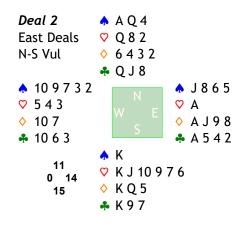
West's 2 ♣ cuebid shows a good (10 points or more) advancing hand. After the cuebid, the partnership bids four card suits upthe-line, looking for a 4-4 fit. After East bids 2 ♣, West raises to game. A wimpy 3 ♣ raise after the cuebid would have been only invitational.

Defensive Commentary:

Against a suit contract, lead low from three cards (exceptions: a sequence or the Ace). North plays three top clubs.

Play Commentary:

Declarer ruffs the third club low. From the *low* & lead, it is safe to ruff low.



West	North	East	South
		1 💠	1 ♡
Pass All pass	2 💠	Pass	4♡

4 ♥ by South Lead: ♦ 10 Made 4 — NS +620

Bidding Commentary:

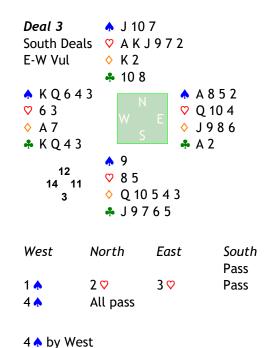
North's 2 ♦ cuebid shows a hand too strong to raise to 2 ♥, at least eleven points. A raise to 2 ♥ would have been an underbid and a jump to 3 ♥ would have been merely preemptive. Jump raises in competition are preemptive.

Defensive Commentary:

From East's point of view, looking at the \$\forall 9\$, the lead is from shortness. East goes up with the \$\forall A\$ and returns the \$\forall 4\$, suit preference for Clubs in case West ruffs.

Play Commentary:

South postpones drawing trump to discard a ♦ (overtaking the ♠ K to dump the ♦ Q on the ♠ Q).



Lead: ♥ A Made 4 — EW +620

Bidding Commentary:

East's 3 Cuebid shows trump support and a limit raise or better. A jump to 3 in competition would be merely preemptive. West has enough to accept and bids game.

<u>Defensive Commentary:</u>

South starts a high-low signal with the ©Eight at trick one. North continues with another high Heart. The ©Q in dummy is an established winner. In order to kill the ©Q, North leads a third heart. South ruffs the third © with the ♣9.

Play Commentary: As East, do not over-ruff South's ♠ 9! It is safer to discard the ♦ loser.