

Unassuming Cue Bids

Quiet, modest,
shy bids?



Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB).

When your partner makes an overcall, it can be anywhere from 8 to 14 points and you often cannot decide whether to invite to game or how far to bid on. The “Unassuming Cue Bid” allows you to ask your partner how good their overcall is.

To do this, you bid the “enemy’s” suit ! You should have at least 10 points and 3+ card support of partner’s overcalled suit. If you do not have 3 card support, but 10+ points and a cover in the opposition’s suit, you can bid 1NT, otherwise pass.

After the UCB, your partner can further describe the strength of their overcall. The good thing about this bid, is that it allows you stop at a low level if the overcall is weak.

Example bidding and responses to the Unassuming Cue Bid:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Me</u>
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥*
	2♠	(7) 8 - 10 pts	
	3♠	11 – 12 (13) pts	
	4♠	(13) 14 - 15 pts	

One advantage of using the Unassuming Cue bid, is that if you support partner’s overcall directly, you will be showing less than 10 points. Here are 3 examples of how you can support your partner with less than 10 points:

Example 1:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Me</u>
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠

The person bidding 2♠ is showing 3 card support and 5-9 points

Example 2:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Me</u>
1♥	1♠	Pass	3♠

The person bidding 3♠ is showing 4 card support and 5-9 points

Example 3:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Me</u>
1♥	1♠	Pass	4♠

The person bidding 4♠ is showing 5 card support and 5-9 points

Another advantage of using the UCB is that by bidding the “enemy’s” suit this often stops them from finding their ideal contract.

Quiz

The bidding on Hands A, B & C

<u>Opener</u>	Partner	<u>Responder</u>	Me
1♣	1♥	1♠	?

What would you bid with these three hands:

Hand A	Hand B	Hand C
♠ A Q 6 4 2	♠ 8 3	♠ A Q 10
♥ Q 4 2	♥ Q 9 6 2	♥ Q J 10
♦ Q 4 2	♦ 7 4	♦ 10 9 7 4 2
♣ J 6	♣ K 10 8 4 2	♣ 8 7

The bidding on Hands D,E & F

<u>Opener</u>	Partner	<u>Responder</u>	Me
1♥	1♠	Pass	?

What would you bid with these three hands:

Hand D	Hand E	Hand F
♠ A Q 6 4 2	♠ Q 8 3	♠ A Q 6 3 2
♥ Q 4 2	♥ 9 6 2	♥ Q 10 6
♦ Q 4 2	♦ 7 4	♦ 10 9 7
♣ J 6	♣ K 10 8 4 2	♣ 8 7

My Notes:

Quiz answers

- A. 2♣ – This is a perfect UCB with 10+ pts and three+ hearts. Partner can retreat to 2♥ with no game interest, or make another (descriptive) bid to look for game.
- B. 3♥ – this is to show the level of the fit (four hearts) and less than 10 points.
- C. 2♣ – this hand may not (quite) have 10 points, but those majors look great. The spade honours are sitting over the opposing spade bidder. So this hand can be upgraded to 10. As usual, high card point ranges are guidelines, but are not fixed rules.
- D. 2♥ – do not be tempted to just bid to game because you have a 5/5 fit. Still use the UCB just in case your partner has a good hand. It also tells your partner you have 10+ points
- E. 2♠ – this is to show the level of the fit (three spades) and less than 10 points
- F. 4♠ – this is to show the level of the fit (five spades) and less than 10 points. Take care with the vulnerability with these sorts of hands. If you choose not to bid to game immediately, then it is wise not to bid later, as you are more likely to be doubled.