

Cue Bidding

Sometimes, when hands have a good fit and enough points/shape to take them beyond game, opener or responder bids a side suit. What can it mean? It means that they possess “**First Round Control**” FRC in that suit. This is a **cue bid**. FRC means an Ace, or a void. FRCs are bid “Up the Line”. In this way a partnership can, *with practice*, judge whether or not they have controls in all suits before embarking on a hopeless slam.

Only use cue bids when:-

- We have found a suit fit and we are definitely going to game.
- There is a real chance of a slam making, if we have the right cards.
- We have an FRC.
- Please bid your FRC’s in order, “Up the Line”.

Look at the two following auctions:-

♠ K Q 9 8 2	♠ A 6 5 3	Bidding	
♥ A K J 4 3	♥ 7 5 2	West	East
♦ 4 3 2	♦ Q J 9	1♠	4♠
♣ -	♣ A K 8	5♣*	5♠*
		all pass	

5♣* Cue bid. First round control in Clubs.

5♠* Denying first round controls in Diamonds and Hearts. East can tell West is void in clubs.

Even 5♠ can fail if the ♥ Q is wrong and the defenders cash the ♦ A K.

♠ K Q 9 8 2	♠ A 6 5 3	Bidding	
♥ A K J 4 3	♥ 7 5 2	West	East
♦ -	♦ Q J 9	1♠	4♠
♣ 4 3 2	♣ A K 8	5♦*	6♣*
		6♠	all pass

Why should this sequence work?

See Book 2, page 36.