



Slam Bidding (1) – Cue Bidding

Requirements for a Slam

Slam hands are quite rare. You need to win 12 tricks for a Small Slam, 13 for a Grand Slam

You need **a source of tricks**:

2 balanced hands need lots of High Card points: at least 33 for 6NT, 37 for 7NT

Unbalanced hands may make slam with fewer HCP if they have a lot of trump, or a long running suit

♠AQJ743	N	♠K8652
♥KQJ4	W E	♥A5
♦-	S	♦96543
♣A87		♣2

A combined 23 HCP, yet West makes 13 tricks in spades by ruffing 2 clubs in dummy. A **perfect fit** - no wasted high cards, shortages opposite length

And, of equal importance, you can afford to lose only one trick in a Small Slam, none in a Grand.

You need **control of every suit** to prevent opponents cashing 2 tricks against a Small slam, 1 against a Grand.

♠AQJ743	N	♠K8652
♥KQJ4	W E	♥A5
♦-	S	♦2
♣A87		♣96543

This time the limit is 11 tricks, since 2 club tricks must be lost. The hands fit poorly when both are short in the same suit (**mirror distribution**)

The Cuebid

This is the single most important tool for accurate slam bidding.

When we have agreed a trump suit, we can cuebid a suit where we have **first round control** (ace or void)

West	East	West	East	West	East	West	East
1♥	3♥	1♥	2♠	1♥	2♦	1NT	3♣
3♠		3♠	4♣	4♦	4♥	3♥	

The last bid in each of these auctions is a **cuebid**, showing **first round control** in the suit bid.

It is **not** a suggestion that we might play in this suit: **a trump suit is already agreed**. Partner cannot pass!

The cuebid shows **interest in playing in a slam** and first round control of the suit bid.

♠A3	N	♠652
♥KQJ932	W E	♥A10864
♦AK8	S	♦9
♣87		♣AK72

West	East
1♥	3♥
3♠	4♣
4♦	4♥
6♥	Pass

♠AKJ876	N	♠Q954
♥-	W E	♥AK72
♦J8432	S	♦75
♣AK		♣Q73

West	East
1♠	3♠
4♣	4♥
4♠	Pass

When partner raises hearts West sniffs slam in the air
But he needs partner to have **control** in clubs.
So he **cuebids** his cheapest first round control.
This allows East to **cuebid** his first round club control

This time West needs control in diamonds.
He **cuebids** his cheapest first round control.
East cuebids hearts, not what West wanted to hear.
There is no slam, so West **signs off** in 4♠.

Strong Jump Shift

1♠ - 3♣/♦/♥

(i)

The jump in a new suit is strong and one of two hand types:
A good 6+card suit (or very good 5+card) single-suited hand (rebids own suit or NT next round).



Slam Bidding (1) – Cue Bidding

Rules for cue-bidding

1. A suit must be *clearly agreed* as trump. Usually this means it has been **bid and raised**.
2. The values for slam must be present - someone must have a strong hand
3. A cue-bid shows **first round control** in the suit bid - an ace or a void
4. We always cue-bid the **cheapest** first round control. If we 'skip' a suit we *deny* first round control in it.
5. When it is clear that we have no control in one suit we *sign-off* by making the cheapest available bid in the agreed trump suit

West East
1♥ 3♥
4♥

East cannot cue-bid now. Not a cuebid, a **game try**
He has made a *limit bid*. There will be no slam
Partner is in charge. opposite a weak response

West East
1♥ 2♥
3♣

West East
1♥ 2♠
3♣

Not a cuebid, no suit is
agreed. A natural bid, just
like 2♣ over a 1♠ response

West East
1♠ 3♠
4♦

West has denied 1st
round control in Clubs.
East may cue bid Hearts
but should be wary of
bidding beyond 4S with
no club control. West
should also be wary of
beyond 4♠ without 2nd
Round control in clubs