

The Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB)

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 7 2
♥ 9 5
♦ K 10
♣ A J 8 6 3

♠ A K 4 3
♥ Q 3 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ K 5 2



♠ 9
♥ A K 7 6 4
♦ A Q 9 2
♣ Q 9 4

♠ 10 8 6 5
♥ J 10 8
♦ J 8 6 5
♣ 10 7

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

By bidding 2 ♣ West is showing 10+ points and 3+ hearts.

East with 14 HCP and a singleton spade, has no difficulties bidding to game. South leads 10♣ and North should duck, otherwise East will make 2 club tricks

NB: This always contract makes, but you can make 5 with careful play: Declarer needs to play AK♠ early to pitch a losing club, then finesse the diamond before drawing trumps.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 5 4 3 2
♥ 7 4 2
♦ 7 4
♣ K Q J

♠ 10 8
♥ J 6 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A 10 7 6 4



♠ 9
♥ K 10 5
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ 9 8 5 2

♠ A K J 7 6
♥ A Q 9 8
♦ 10 6 3
♣ 3

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

North's bid of 4 ♠ is showing 5 spades and less than 10 points.

This contract should make, but sometimes you may go light. If you do, it is likely there is a contract for EW that you have shut them out of.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 10 3
♥ 9 7
♦ 10 8 6 4 2
♣ A K 8 7

♠ A K 8 4 2
♥ 10 5 2
♦ Q 5 3
♣ 6 2



♠ Q 6 5
♥ A J 8
♦ K J 9
♣ J 10 9 5

♠ J 9 7
♥ K Q 6 4 3
♦ A 7
♣ Q 4 3

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	All pass		

After the overcall, North may double to show points rather than pass, but the bidding will be the same from East. With 10+ and 3 spades they are interested in game.

2 ♠ from West shows a minimum hand. The bonus with using the UCB is that the 2 ♥ bid from East has made it too hard for NS to come in at the 3 level

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

♠ A J 10 4 3
♥ A Q 6
♦ 10 9 8
♣ 9 6

♠ Q 9
♥ 10 7 5 2
♦ K Q J 6 3
♣ A Q



♠ 6 2
♥ K J 9 4
♦ 7 4
♣ 8 5 4 3 2

♠ K 8 7 5
♥ 8 3
♦ A 5 2
♣ K J 10 7

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	All pass	

After South uses the UCB, North shows their hand to have intermediate values. South has no more to offer, so passes.

The 2 ♦ bid by South obstructs West from bidding diamonds again or allowing EW to find their heart fit.

Once trumps are drawn it is best to try and set up the clubs before taking the heart finesse (which does not work on this occasion)

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Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 9 6
♥ K 8
♦ K 7 3 2
♣ A Q 8 7 6

♠ K 5 2
♥ Q J 10 9 4
♦ A 4
♣ J 9 2

♠ A J 7 4 3
♥ 7 6
♦ Q J 8 6
♣ 5 3



West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♥	All pass		

West is using the Law of Total Tricks to go to the 3 level. This is showing less than 10 points and 4 card support in hearts.

NB: The contract should go 1 light for 50 to NS, but you will notice NS can make 3 or 4 diamonds for 110 to them

West's aggressive bid means NS cannot find their fit, let alone be able to play in 3.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ J 6 3
♥ Q J 8
♦ A K J 3
♣ 7 6 2

♠ K 5 2
♥ Q J 10 9 4
♦ A 4
♣ J 9 2

♠ A 7
♥ 7 3
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ A K J 5 4

♠ 9 5 4
♥ A K 9 6 5
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 9 8



West	North	East	South
		1 ♣	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥

Both the opponents are bidding and occasionally this happens. It looks less likely you are going anywhere, but North, should still ask about partner's overcall, just in case EW do not have good hands.

Cue bid the opponent's lowest suit to ask the question. Not surprisingly your partner will show a minimum overcall, but the good news is you have stopped East bidding their clubs again !

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 9 8 2
♥ J 6 5 3 2
♦ 8 6
♣ J 9 4

♠ 7 6 4
♥ A Q 9
♦ A Q 4 2
♣ 6 5 2

♠ A K J 3
♥ 7 4
♦ 9 5
♣ A Q 10 8 7



West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
1 ♦ 3 ♦	Pass All pass	2 ♣	Pass

You can use the UCB over minor overcalls also, but you may not ask with only 10 points, because a game contract is one level higher.

On this board West is showing a good overcall (11-12) but not good enough to go to game. If East had distributional points they could bid on, but their hand is too flat so passes.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 7 4 3
♥ K 8 6
♦ J 2
♣ J 10 9

♠ A 9 8 2
♥ J 7
♦ K 6
♣ K Q 6 5 2

♠ 5
♥ A 10 4 2
♦ 8 7 5 4 3
♣ A 8 7

♠ J 10 6
♥ Q 9 5 3
♦ A Q 10 9
♣ 4 3



West	North	East	South
			2 ♠
1 ♣ Pass	1 ♠ Pass	Dbl 3 ♣	All pass

South does not use the UCB because they have less than 10 points. North knows this and should not be tempted to bid on after 3 ♣

2 ♠ looks like it will make and 3 ♣ may not, so NS can't lose on this hand if they remain disciplined and pass.