

Michaels

A standard version presented by Mike Savage

When you have a two-suited (5-5, 6-5 or 6-6) hand and your right-hand opponent opens the bidding, **Michaels** is the bid of choice. With it you can show a *weak* hand with two suits or a very *strong* hand with two suits. With intermediate two-suited hands, it is usually best to plan to bid both of your suits, the higher one first. (Some partnerships bid and respond to **Michaels** differently). An example of a **weak** two-suiter is: **QJTxx KJTxx xx x**; an example of an **intermediate** two-suiter is: **xxx AKJxx KQJxx**; two examples of **strong** 2-suited hands are #1: **AKJT9 AKJTxx xx x** and #2: **AQJxx KQJTxx Kx void**.

Over a minor suit opening, a direct cue-bid (1C-2C; 1D-2D) shows both majors, presumably with a weak hand (if the **Michaels** bidder bids again, *then* he shows the **strong** two-suited hand). Over a major opening, a direct cue-bid (1H-2H or 1S-2S) shows the other major and a minor. Since you don't know which minor partner has, if you have support for both, you can ask partner to show which minor he has by bidding 2NT (or 3NT if there is some interference). Then he will bid his minor. If, after he shows his minor, you bid three of his major, this sequence is invitational to game in the major. After 1-of-a-major, **Michaels** cue-bid, pass; a 3C or 3D bid by the cue-bidder's partner, shows his own long, good suit with no interest in your suits. Vulnerability should be a strong factor in deciding whether you should use **Michaels** or not.

1C/1D – 2C/2D = Shows both majors (*should* be 5-5 or better), presumed to be weak.

Responses by partner of the **Michaels 2C/2D** bid, after a pass:

2H/2S = Shows a preference for the major suit bid and no game interest.

3H/3S = Shows **strong** sized cue-bid, just needs a little something.

4H/4S = Shows **strong** sized cue-bid and doesn't need anything.

2NT = Natural and invitational, denies primary support for either major.

3 of the unbid minor = Rarely bid. Shows a very good suit and is to play.

3H/3S = Invitational to game in the suit bid, presuming the cue-bid was weak.

3NT = Natural, to play and denies 3-card or better support for either major.

4H/4S = To play opposite a weak hand, either to make or to extend the preempt.

1H/1S – 2H/2S = Shows the unbid major and a minor (5-5 or better) presumed to be weak.

Responses by partner of the **Michaels 2H/2S** bid, after a pass:

2S (over **2H**) = Shows spade tolerance (perhaps only two) and a poor hand.

If only two spades, *usually* doesn't have a fit in both minors.

2NT (over **2H** or **2S**) = Asks partner to bid his minor. Usually will pass next.

3C/3D = Shows cue-bidder's minor and confirms having a weak hand.

3H (over **2S**) = Shows an invitational hand with a heart fit.

3C/3D Shows an independent good suit, usually 6-cards long and is to play.

3H (over **2S**) = Prefers hearts over either minor with no game interest.

3S (over **2H**) = Invitational to game in spades opposite a presumed weak hand.

3NT = Rarely bid. It is to play without a primary fit in partner's major.

4 of partner's major = Bid to make opposite a weak hand or extends the preempt.

If there is interference over **Michaels** and your partner doesn't bid, bidding *again* shows the **strong Michaels** (with **strong** example #1 at the top: reopen with **Dbl**, with #2: bid hearts).

Leaping Michaels is a strong bid after a weak 2H/2S bid as follows:

2H/2S-4C or **4D** = Shows the bid minor and the unbid major, at least 5-5 and a very nice hand.