

FINCH CUE BID

Finch Cue Bid (*alertable*) is used to show a hand with **two 5-card suits** with **one bid**, some partnerships do allow 4-5/5-4 when holding **both** majors.

It can be used when you are stronger, but generally it's used as a weak, pre-emptive, 6-11 point bid, with both vulnerabilities being taken into account.

It replaces Michael's Cue Bid/Unusual 2NT; Ghestem and Questem; CRO (all types).

Bidding (and remembering) couldn't be any simpler! The lowest cue bid possible 1x 2x (1♣2♣/1♦2♦/1♥2♥/1♠2♠), signifies the 2 highest unbid suits; with the highest bid 1x 3♣, showing the 2 lowest unbid suits; and the middle bid 1x 2NT, used to specify the 5/5 holding of the highest and the lowest unbid suits.

“The Lowest (1x2x Finch Cue Bid) shows the Highest (2 unbid suits), and the Highest shows the Lowest, otherwise the middle (2NT) must be the other two (Highest and the Lowest)”.

Other options – If 1 of opponents' 2 bid suits is a **phoney** (♣), then, treating (♣) as **UNBID**, permits all 3 Finch Cue Bids, a 2(♣) bid being used as your normal overcall.

If opps have bid 2 suits (e.g. 1♦ & 1♠), 2 unbid suits are left, so with 5/5 in ♣s & ♥s, a 2♦ bid (lower bid suit) shows 6-9 points; 2♠ (higher) 10-12; 2NT 13-15 & 3♣ 16+.

*Michael's Cue Bid/Unusual 2NT has 2 “the other Major and a minor” and 2 totally omitted combinations (lowest & highest unbid suits over opponent's minor openings)! All CRO versions (CRO COR ROC etc;) are totally neutral, neither major nor minor! The Finch Cue Bid overcomes the Ghestem problem of having to bid 3♣ when holding both majors, as now the lowest Direct Cue Bid (2♣♦♥♠) is very much major oriented. The Questem problem stills exists when you're strong and one of your suits is Clubs, in which case the initial bid should be **DOUBLE**, rather than bidding 3♣, which partner may pass thinking you are weak! Although the 3♣ Bid can't now be used as a weak jump overcall, 75% of the time when you overcall 3♣, you actually have clubs! Where Questem is an inversion of Ghestem, the Finch Cue Bid is a further inversion, making it even better than Questem, in that the 3♣ Bid is very much for the minors; the 2NT bid becomes neutral; the low 2-level Direct Cue Bid remains major oriented; culminating in a simple yet complete and exact logical scientific bidding system.*

| OPPS BID | OVER CALL | FINCH Cue Bid | Michael's Cue Bid + Unusual 2NT | Ghestem | Questem | CRO, ROC etc; ColourRankOther |
|----------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1♣ | 2♣ | both MAJORS ♥ & ♠ | both MAJORS ♥ & ♠ | highest&lowest ♦ & ♠ | both MAJORS ♥ & ♠ | Colour ♦ & ♥ |
| | 2NT | highest&lowest ♦ & ♠ | 2 lowest unbid suits ♦ & ♥ | 2 LOWEST ♦ & ♥ | 2 LOWEST ♦ & ♥ | Rank ♥ & ♠ |
| | 3♣ | 2 LOWEST ♦ & ♥ | missing combinations ♦ & ♠ | both MAJORS ♥ & ♠ | highest&lowest ♦ & ♠ | Other ♦ & ♠ |
| 1♦ | 2♦ | both MAJORS ♥ & ♠ | both MAJORS ♥ & ♠ | highest&lowest ♣ & ♠ | both MAJORS ♥ & ♠ | Colour ♣ & ♠ |
| | 2NT | highest&lowest ♣ & ♠ | 2 lowest unbid suits ♣ & ♥ | 2 LOWEST ♣ & ♥ | 2 LOWEST ♣ & ♥ | Rank ♥ & ♠ |
| | 3♣ | 2 LOWEST ♣ & ♥ | missing combinations ♣ & ♠ | both MAJORS ♥ & ♠ | highest&lowest ♣ & ♠ | Other ♣ & ♥ |
| 1♥ | 2♥ | 2 HIGHEST ♦ & ♠ | other major + a minor ♠+♣/♦ | highest&lowest ♣ & ♠ | 2 HIGHEST ♦ & ♠ | Colour ♣ & ♠ |
| | 2NT | highest&lowest ♣ & ♠ | both MINORS ♣ & ♦ | both MINORS ♣ & ♦ | both MINORS ♣ & ♦ | Rank ♣ & ♦ |
| | 3♣ | both MINORS ♣ & ♦ | missing combinations ♣ & ♦ | 2 HIGHEST ♦ & ♠ | highest&lowest ♣ & ♠ | Other ♦ & ♠ |
| 1♠ | 2♠ | 2 HIGHEST ♦ & ♥ | other major + a minor ♥+♣/♦ | highest&lowest ♣ & ♥ | 2 HIGHEST ♦ & ♥ | Colour ♦ & ♥ |
| | 2NT | highest&lowest ♣ & ♥ | both MINORS ♣ & ♦ | both MINORS ♣ & ♦ | both MINORS ♣ & ♦ | Rank ♣ & ♦ |
| | 3♣ | both MINORS ♣ & ♦ | missing combinations ♣ & ♦ | 2 HIGHEST ♦ & ♥ | highest&lowest ♣ & ♥ | Other ♣ & ♥ |

PROBLEMS

Major 2♦♦♦
Neutral 2NT
Minor 3♣

Uses 3♣ bid

missing combinations
minor oriented
2 unknown minors
MAY use 3♣/3♦ bid
phony bids N/A
2 opps bids N/A

neutral
minor oriented
major oriented
Uses 3♣ bid
phony bids N/A
2 opps bids N/A

minor oriented
neutral
Uses 3♣ bid
phony bids N/A
2 opps bids N/A

neutral
neutral
Uses 3♣ bid
phony bids N/A
2 opps bids N/A

Modern Ghestem

2♦ Note – NOT 2♣
1♣ 2NT
3♣

both MAJORS ♥ & ♠
2 LOWEST ♦ & ♥
highest&lowest ♦ & ♠