

Italian-Style Cue Bidding

Italian-style consists of bidding first- and second-round controls efficiently, rather than exhausting all first-round controls, then bidding second-round controls.

From The Italian Blue Team Bridge Book

"...it is not possible to discuss it [cue bidding] in terms of general rules... Instead it is a method which must be based on the logic of the situation..."

"...some general considerations on the bidding of slams:

- ...when a control is held in more than one suit, the first cue bid must be at the lowest level possible.

Exception:

When a player holds first-round control in the higher-ranking suit, and second-round control in the lower-ranking suit and does not wish to play at the five-level if partner can make no further constructive bid, he may first bid the first-round control, reserving the other suit for the next round. This inversion of the normal sequence should not confuse partner, rather it will clarify the situation for him, by telling him in which suit you hold first-round control and in which second-round.

- ...the bid of four notrump without a jump may have two different meanings: a quantitative raise or a general cue bid... it is used to show the lack of a control in a particular suit and asks partner to bid a slam only if he can control that suit. For example:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦ ²	Pass
4NT ³			

- GF
- Diamond control, denies club control
- Club control, denies spade control

The bid of four notrump denies, in this case, promises a club control, denies a spade control and asks partner to bid the slam only if he has control of the spade suit.

In all the other cases, the bid of four notrump without a jump is a general cue bid which shows slam interest and asks partner to clarify the values which he has or to show additional values."

The remainder of the chapter on Slam Bidding consists of a series of examples. These are essential to understanding the "logic of the situation" but are too long to reproduce here. Instead, some explanations are listed here:

- When a player, having located the trump suit and having found a sufficient number of controls (by means of cue-bids) makes a jump bid in the trump suit above the game level, he invites his partner to bid a slam with good trump support.
- When the unbid strength lies in trump, and there is no further outside strength to be shown, jump in trumps.
- When trumps have been agreed upon, responder, even if he has nothing outside the controls already shown, can show all the controls he holds if it is possible under the level of game.

Additional Rules

- Cue bids can be made below game with neutral, rather than positive interest in slam. For example, responder's "low raise" (1 -2 -2NT-3) shows extra values. Opener can make an advance cue bid that does not necessarily show interest in slam.
- Bypassing a suit denies first-round control of the suit.
- Repeat cue-bids guarantee first-round control.
- A first cue bid cannot show shortness in one of partner's long suits unless singleton ace or king.

Grand Slam Force

To be supplied.