

Hitchhiker After a Weak 1 No Trump

(Also known as "Condensed Transfers" in [The Bridge World](#).)

Latest change: March 13th 2008 - New high-level responses to 2♦.
Change: April 24th 2008 - Minor suit slam tries transfer first, even with 4-card major.

After a weak 1NT opening (or rebid showing the same kind of hand), the opposite holds as after a normal 1NT. The goal is to get the notrump hand in dummy. This system achieves that in many situations.

It started out by thinking about a way to improve 2-way Stayman, which works like this: 2♣ asks partner if he has a 4-card major, and 2♦ asks partner if he has a 4-card major. Doesn't sound very intelligent, does it? What information other than a 4-card major might partner want to know? Right, if he has a fit for a 5-card major. If you ask partner for a 2-card major you know directly if he has a fit or not! In addition if he doesn't have a fit you can play safely on the 2-level.

Let's have a look at the responses to 1 NT:

Response	Meaning
2 ♣	Stayman Relay
2 ♦	Invite or better, usually with 5-card Major.
2 ♥	Weak; to play.
2 ♠	Weak; to play.
2 NT	Transfer to ♣/♦, weak or game forcing.
3 ♣	Transfer to ♣/♦, weak or game forcing.
3 NT	To play.
3 ♦	Puppet Stayman; asks for a 5-card Major.
3 ♥	3-card suit; singleton in other Major; game forcing.
3 ♠	3-card suit; singleton in other Major; game forcing.
3 NT	To play.
4 ♣	6-card plus Hearts; slam interest
4 ♦	6-card plus Spades; slam interest.
4 ♥	To play.
4 ♠	To play.
4 NT	Quantitative.

The weak sign-offs in the Major suits put maximum pressure on the opponents. Otherwise emphasis is put on whether or not game should be bid, and if so, which game.

Stayman

This is the same as in normal Stayman, the non-standard bids are in *italic*.

The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
1 NT	2 ♣ = Stayman

Rebids by Opener

Rebid	Meaning
2 ♦	No 4-card Heart suit or 4-card Spade suit.
2 ♥	4-card Heart suit; possibly also a 4-card Spade suit.
2 ♠	4-card Spade suit; no 4-card Heart suit.
2 NT	5-card Heart suit.

The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
1 NT	2 ♣ = Stayman
2 ♦	?

Rebids by Responder

Rebid	Meaning
2 ♥	Weak; 4 plus Hearts or 4 plus Spades.
2 ♠	Invitational or better: 5 Spades or 4 Hearts.
2 NT	Invitational for 3 No Trump.
3 ♣	<i>Invite; long Club suit.</i>
3 ♦	<i>Invite; long Diamond suit.</i>
3 ♥	3-suited with 4 Hearts, short Spades; game forcing.
3 ♠	3 suited with 4 Spades, short Hearts; game forcing.
3 NT	To play.
4 ♣	Splinter in Clubs; shows 5 Hearts plus 5 Spades; slam interest.
4 ♦	Splinter in Diamonds; shows 5 Hearts plus 5 Spades; slam interest.

The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
1 NT	2 ♣ = Stayman
2 ♥	?

Rebids by Responder

Rebid	Meaning
2 ♠	<i>Invite without 4-card Major or slam try confirming Hearts. (Opener bids 2NT with minimum.)</i>
2 NT	<i>Invite with 4 Spades.</i>
3 ♣	<i>Invite; long Club suit.</i>
3 ♦	<i>Invite; long Diamond suit.</i>
3 ♥	Invitational for 4 Hearts.
3 ♠	<i>Slam try with 4 Spades.</i>
3 NT	To play. (Promises 4-cards in Spades.)
4 ♣	Splinter
4 ♦	Splinter
4 ♥	To play.
4 ♠	To play.

The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
1 NT	2 ♣ = Stayman
2 ♠	?

Rebids by Responder

2 NT	Invitational for 3 No Trump.
3 ♣	<i>Invite; long Club suit.</i>
3 ♦	<i>Invite; long Diamond suit.</i>
3 ♥	Forcing with a Spade fit.
3 ♠	Invitational for 4 Spades.
3 NT	To play.

- 4 ♣ **Splinter**
- 4 ♦ **Splinter**
- 4 ♥ To play.
- 4 ♠ To play.

The 2♦ Relay

2♦ asks partner to bid a doubleton Major to find 5-3 fits. Not that a 1 No Trump opener should have at most one doubleton Major. Without a doubleton Major a fit is certain, and opener bids 2 No Trump or higher.

The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
1 NT	2 ♦
?	

Rebids by Opener

- 2 ♥ Doubleton in Hearts; at least a 3-card Spade suit.
- 2 ♠ Doubleton in Spades; at least a 3-card Heart suit.
- 2 NT At least 3-3 in both Majors, minimum, or 4-4 in both Majors, maximum.
- 3 ♣ At least 3-3 in both Majors, maximum; 4 plus Clubs.
- 3 ♦ At least 3-3 in both Majors, maximum; 4 plus Diamonds.
- 3 ♥ 5 Hearts plus 3 Spades, maximum.
- 3 ♠ 5 Spades plus 3 Hearts, maximum.
- 3 NT Any 4-3-3-3, maximum.

The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
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1 NT	2 ♦
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2 ♥	?
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Rebids by Responder

2 ♠	5 Hearts, 4 Spades; forcing; invite or better.
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2 NT	5 Hearts; invitational.
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3 ♣	Game forcing; natural.
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3 ♦	Game forcing; natural.
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3 ♥	6 Hearts; invitational.
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3 ♠	5 Spades; invitational.
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3 NT	To play.
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4 ♣	Spade fit; shows control.
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4 ♦	Spade fit; shows control.
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4 ♥	To play.
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4 ♠	To play.
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The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
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1 NT	2 ♦
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2 ♠	?
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Rebids by Responder

2 NT	5 Spades; invitational.
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3 ♣	Game forcing; natural.
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3 ♦	Game forcing; natural.
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3 ♥	5 Hearts; invitational.
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3 ♠	6 Spades; invitational.
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3 NT	To play.
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4 ♣	Spade fit; shows control.
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4 ♦ Spade fit; shows control.

4 ♥ To play.

4 ♠ To play.

The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
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1 NT	2 ♦
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2 NT	?
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Rebids by Responder

3 ♣ Game forcing with Hearts.

3 ♦ Game forcing with Spades.

3 ♥ 5 Hearts; invitational.

3 ♠ 5 Spades; invitational.

4 ♥ To play.

4 ♠ To play.

The auction sequence is:

Opener	Responder
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1 NT	2 ♦
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3 minor	?
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Rebids by Responder

3 ♥ Fit; slam try.

3 ♠ Fit; slam try.

4 minor Fit; slam try.

4 other minor Ace-asking for the Minor suit.

Some Recipes

To invite without a 4-card Major, bid Stayman first.

To invite with a long Minor, bid Stayman and then your long Minor.

Source - **Mr. Gerben Dirksen**, Tübingen, Germany - [Blog](#)