

## MINOR SUIT TRANSFER RESPONSE TO 2NT OPENING

Jacoby transfer bids are extended as over a 1NT opening, with a 3♠ response showing clubs and a 3NT response showing diamonds:

Opener	Responder
2NT	3♠ - shows a club suit
	3NT - shows a diamond suit

The responses are not like those used for minor suit transfers after a 1NT opening. If opener has good support for the indicated suit, he stays at the three level. This shows a holding like AKx, AQx, AJx, KJx, or better. It tells partner that if he has nothing but six cards to the jack or queen in the suit, or seven to the 10 (9?), it will probably be usable at notrump.

Let's start with the 3♠ response:

Opener	Responder
2NT	3♠ - showing clubs
	3NT - good club support (AQx, AJx, etc)
	4♣ - poor club support

Responder could have: ♠108 ♥J76 ♦95 ♣Q87432. If opener has good clubs, 3NT is probably a reasonable contract. If he has a doubleton, this hand will make a terrible notrump dummy, and 4♣ is the landing place.

If responder bids 4♣ over 3NT, perhaps with a 10-high suit, opener must usually pass although he might bid 4NT with AK32 in the suit (or 5♣ with four-card support and a ruffing value). To make a forcing club bid, responder starts with 3♣, then bids 4♣.

If responder follows by bidding a suit other than clubs, he is showing a second suit and slam ambitions. Such a bid is forcing even if game has been reached:

Opener	Responder
2NT	3♠ - club transfer
3NT	4♣ - signoff
	4♦/4♥/4♠ - second suit, possibly four cards, forcing

If responder is not particularly interested in slam, he bids Stayman with five or six clubs and a four-card major. With five clubs and four diamonds he would not bypass 3NT without some slam interest.

Diamonds are handled a little differently. Responder cannot have slam potential, because opener can pass the 3NT transfer bid if he has good support for diamonds.

Opener	Responder
2NT	3NT - weak hand, long diamonds that need help
	Pass - good diamond support
	4♣ - poor diamond support
	4♦ - mediocre diamond support

"Good support" was defined above. "Mediocre" means any three cards or a very strong doubleton--two of the top four honors. Responder may be able to bid 5♦ when opener shows mediocre support.

If responder bids 4♦ after opener bids 4♣, opener must pass. To make a forcing diamond bid, responder starts with 3♣, then bids 4♦.

Here is how minor suit transfers can come in handy:

With a weak or invitational hand and one long minor, transfer to the minor

With a very weak 5-5 or 5=6 in the minors, transfer to diamonds, pass a 4♣ response. Hope for the best if opener passes 3NT. This is a great bid when holding six diamonds and five clubs

With a game-going or better hand and both minors, transfer to clubs, then bid 4♦ (assuming you're willing to bypass 3NT). Doesn't say which minor is longer.

With slam try hands:

Balanced, five or more clubs, bid 3♠ to show clubs, then 4NT

Unbalanced, five or more clubs, bid 3♣, then 4♣, then whatever

Balanced, five or more diamonds, bid, bid 3♣, then 4♦, then 4NT

Unbalanced, five or more diamonds, bid 3♣, then 4♦, then whatever