

Minor Suit Stayman - One No Trump Opening responses



Four Suit Transfers Tournament Series #16

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Weak Sign Off or Slam Invitational



There are two reasons for showing a 6 card minor when partner has opened 1 No Trump.

1. You could have a weak hand with a 6+ card minor suit that would give an opportunity for partner to make 3 of a minor rather than going set at 1 No Trump.
2. You could have a slam invitational hand with a minor suit(s) offering the best opportunity for slam.

The "Four Way Transfers with Range Ask" is the recommended treatment for a 2♠ response to a 1 No Trump opening bid.

Recommended Reading is Gavin Wolpert's explanation of the convention "Four Way Transfers with Range Ask" available at BridgeWinners.com

The simple "old way" is to respond 2♠ to partner's 1NT opening bid with a weak or slam hand and a six card minor or 5/5 in the minors. The 1NT opener has 2 bids.

1. 3♣ with ♣ longer or ♦ equal in length
2. 2NT with ♦ longer

When weak, responder then PASSES 3♣ with 6♣ or corrects to 3♦ which Opener PASSES to play in the long minor or chooses with 5/5 the 1NT opener's longer minor.

When inviting slam responder with 5/5 in the minors places the contract in opener's longest suit or his 6 card minor suit at the 4 level or bids shortness in their major.

Since most duplicate partners play Stayman 2♣ and Jacoby Transfers for the majors with 2♦ and 2♥; there is no bid for 2♠. This (2♠) bid implements an otherwise unused bid.

Invitational hands

The use off of 2♠ for minors allows for 3♣ and 3♦ to be used as invitational to game. With a 6 card minor and some values (4-6 hcps) responder bids his minor at the 3 level. The 1NT opener bids 3NT with high honor/x or any three small xxx; otherwise PASS and play 3 of the minor.

Because the 1NT opener will bid game with Ax or Kx; the 6 card minor must have 2 of the top 3 honors.

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Four Suit Transfers - One No Trump Opening responses

Bidding Options with a range ask



Rather than Minor Suit Stayman, modern bidding uses 4 suit transfers.

- 2♠ is a transfer to 3♣; however with longer ♦ the 1NT opener, as with MSS, bids 2NT.
- 2NT is a transfer to 3♦; Further bidding has slam interest with ♦

Responder with a weak hand places the contract in his 6 card minor by PASSING 3♣ or correcting 2NT to 3♣; or invites slam with any other bid.

The problem with using 2NT as a transfer to 3♦ is that you have lost the natural invitational meaning of a 2NT bid.

To solve this problem Four suit transfers players bid 2♣ Stayman (not promising a 4 card major); and then bid 2NT over the response.

This can be confusing!

Minor Suit Transfer with Range Ask

Due to the troubles associated with going through Stayman and not guaranteeing a 4 card major to show a 2NT natural game invite; Modern theory is to add an optional meaning to 2♠.

2♠ by responder can be

1. a weak 6 card ♣ suit OR
2. a natural 2NT invite hand with no 4+ card major and 8/9 hcps

The 1NT opener rebids

- 2NT with a minimum 15 hcps
- 3♣ with more than a minimum

New Wrinkle Range Ask Continued

Nothing is lost with 2♠ also showing a natural game invite of 8/9 hcps.

Over 2NT responder PASSES with the invite hand and corrects to 3♣ with the weak 6♣ hand.

Over 3♣ responder PASSES with the with the weak 6♣ hand and bids 3NT with the game invitational 8/9 hcps hand.

Smolen Convention

Sometimes you have 5/4 in the majors with a game going hand and partner opens 1NT. Stayman takes precedence over transfers and you bid 2♣. Partner denies a 4 card major with a bid of 2♦

Responder bids their 4 card major at the 3 level showing 5 of the other major. Opener with 3 card support bids the other major.

Garbage Stayman

Sometimes you have 5/4 in the majors with a weak hand and partner opens 1NT. Stayman takes precedence over transfers and you bid 2♣. Partner denies a 4 card major with a bid of 2♦

Responder bids their longer major at the 2 level. The 2 level is weak and a demand PASS by the 1NT opener.

Game Invitational 3♣ or 3♦

The 3 level minor suit bids are still available for game invitational bids.

Responder should have a 6 card minor with 2 of the top 3 honors.

The 1 No Trump opener will bid game with Ax or Kx or any 3 cards in that minor as there is a source tricks.