

8)

1NT opening, transfer to minors and e super-acceptance .

The same concepts used in the transfer to majors are used in the transfer to minors. Super-acceptance of transfer to minors is even more useful because it could allow to reach a 3NT contract instead of an idle partial contract in a minor.

Requirement needed for minor suit transfer is a 6+ cards minor and 0+ HCP.

There are various techniques to ask for minor suits transfer.

Some players would bid 2♠ to ask for transfer on either minor. Opener re-bid is forced to 3♣ over which responder passes with ♣ or corrects to ♦ .

Such a technique has the advantage of being very simple but carries 2 big drawbacks . In 50% of cases responder will be declarer and opener hand will go on the table, moreover opener has no way to communicate his possible fit in the minor.

A better way consists in bidding 2♠ as a specific transfer to ♣ and 3♣ as a specific transfer to ♦ . In this case opener will always become declarer. Nevertheless , even with this technique , opener will not be able to inform partner about his possible fit in the minor suit.

The best technique , however, consists in bidding 2♠ as a specific transfer to ♣ and 2NT as a specific transfer to ♦ . In this way , opener will always be declarer and will also have the possibility to inform responder about his fit in the minor suit. Let us see how it works :

N	S
1NT	2♠ = transfer to ♣ with 6+♣ and 0+ HCP.
2NT	= 3+ cards support
3♣	= 2 cards support .

Conversely :

N	S
1NT	2NT = transfer to ♦ with 6+♦ and 0+ HCP.
3♣	= 3+ cards support
3♦	= 2 cards support .

In case responder has a competitive hand , contract will always be 3 in a minor.

When responder has G.F. hand , he does not want to tell the story of his life to opponents and will jump to 3NT directly.

Things are quite different , when responder has got an inviting hand. In such a case opener fit for responder minor can turn final contract into 3NT instead of languishing into a minor part score contract.

Let us see the following example :

S

♠ 8 6

♥ 9 4

♦ Q 10 8

♣ A J 10 9 6 5

In case North has a fit in ♣, this suit alone, could easily generate 5 or 6 tricks thus making perfectly viable a 3NT contract instead of a poor 3♣.

If the bidding goes :

N

S

1NT

2♠ = transfer to ♣ with 6+♣ and 0+ HCP.

3♣ = 2 cards support .

South can do nothing else but pass over 3♣. But if bidding would instead go :

N

S

1NT

2♠ = transfer to ♣ with 6+♣ and 0+ HCP.

2NT = 3+ cards support

South, with a 9+ cards fit in ♣, can have a solid expectation to generate at least 5 tricks in this suit and can reasonably conclude at 3NT.

The same considerations can be made in case South has a slam going hand, either in ♣ or in NT. Knowing North fit for his 6+cards minor, becomes an encouraging factor about slam possibility.

We have now to define what we mean by a 3+ cards fit. This obviously depends on the player " style ". Some people, requiring belt and suspenders, would like to have either 3 cards with 2 honours or 4 cards with 1 honour.

My own requirements are less stringent and I would be happy with 1 honour 3rd or with 4 cards support with or without an honour.