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Basic Minor Suit Transfer Bids

Minor Suit Transfers are useful tools that can be used after partner's opening 1 No – Trump bid. While we can make sophisticated agreements using these transfers, this lesson will focus on how to sign off in a minor after the No – Trump opening bid.

The two hands to the right are terrific examples of why we want the ability to sign off in a minor suit after a No – Trump opening.

Notice, both hands are practically worthless in a No – Trump contract. Playing in the minor suit gives each hand some trick taking potential (clearly more than a NT contract would).

Enter the **Minor Suit Transfer....**

The image displays two bridge hand diagrams. Each diagram shows a bidding sequence where West opens 1NT and East passes. Below the bidding, the cards for both hands are shown. In the top diagram, South (nycpro) has a hand with 8♠, 5♠, 4♠, J♥, 8♥, 3♥, 6♣, Q♦, 10♦, 9♦, 8♦, 6♦, 4♦. A yellow bar below the cards shows a bid of 4♠ (South) with a crown icon, indicating a transfer to spades. In the bottom diagram, South (nycpro) has a hand with Q♠, 8♥, 7♥, 2♥, 10♣, 8♣, 6♣, 5♣, 3♣, 2♣, Q♦, 8♦, 3♦. A yellow bar below the cards shows a bid of 4♣ (South) with a crown icon, indicating a transfer to clubs.



To transfer to Diamonds after partner's 1 No – Trump bid we bid **2 No – Trump**.

So, with the hand above, our goal is to get partner out of a clearly bad NT contract and into Diamonds.

Minor Suit Transfers



To transfer to Clubs after partner's 1 No – Trump bid we bid **2 Spades**.

So, with the hand above, our goal is to get partner out of a clearly bad NT contract and into Clubs.

While we shouldn't expect to do great things with hands like these, we are at least giving our side a better chance at a plus score than a 1NT contract will usually provide.

Our Agreements with Minor Suit Transfers



2 No – Trump
is now a
transfer to
Diamonds



2 Spades
is now a
transfer to
Clubs or a
size asking
bid



Responding to the Diamond Transfer

A bridge hand simulation showing a bidding sequence. The board is labeled WEST, NORTH, EAST, and nycpro. The bidding is: WEST Pass, NORTH Pass, EAST 1NT, WEST Pass, NORTH 2NT (highlighted in a yellow box), EAST Pass, WEST 3D (highlighted in a yellow box). Below the board, the hand for player 'S' (nycpro) is shown: ♠ K7, ♥ J864, ♣ AK53, ♦ AQ5. The hand is labeled with a '4' in a diamond suit icon.

Bid it if you like it.

The advantage to using 2NT as the transfer to Diamonds is realized in this position. The opener has enough room to make 2 bids depending on her Diamond holding. With honor 3rd or better, we accept the transfer by bidding 3 Diamonds.

Now that we are using 2NT for our Diamond transfer, we have to find a way to make an invitational bid after partner opens 1NT. Here's where our Two Way 2 Spade bid comes in.

A bridge hand simulation showing a bidding sequence. The board is labeled WEST, NORTH, EAST, and nycpro. The bidding is: WEST Pass, NORTH 2NT, EAST Pass, WEST 3C (highlighted in a yellow box). Below the board, the hand for player 'S' (nycpro) is shown: ♠ KJ104, ♥ AQ74, ♣ KQ9, ♦ J8. The hand is labeled with a '4' in a diamond suit icon.

Refusing the Transfer.

With less than honor 3rd, the opener has another bid to make. After the transfer, the bid of 3 Clubs indicates that the opener does not like Diamonds. (This means she has less than honor 3rd in the Diamond suit.)

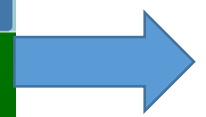
The “Two Way 2 Spade Bid”

WEST	NORTH	EAST	nycpro
	1NT	Pass	

bot

S nycpro 4

Hand: ♠ 9 8 5 ♥ J 7 4 ♣ A 5 3 ♦ A 7 5 4



**INVITE
(size)**

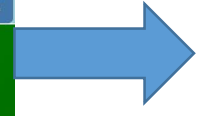
OR

WEST	NORTH	EAST	nycpro
	1NT	Pass	2♠

bot

S nycpro 4

Hand: ♠ Q 8 ♥ 7 2 10 8 6 5 3 2 ♣ Q 8 3



CLUBS

The 2NT response to 1NT used to be our invitational bid. Now that bid is a transfer to Diamonds. So, we need to find a way to make an invitational bid. The 2 Spade response to 1NT now becomes a “Two Way” bid. It is now either invitational or it is a transfer to Clubs.

Responding to the 2 Spade Bid

WEST | NORTH | EAST | nycpro

Pass | Pass | 1NT

Pass | **2♠** | Pass | **2NT**

bot | E

A J 3 K J 9 7 A J 3 J 10 7

♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦

S nycpro 4

Detailed description: This image shows a bridge hand simulation. At the top, a bidding table shows West passing, North passing, East bidding 1NT, and the responder (nycpro) bidding 2NT in response to a 2♠ bid. Below the table, the responder's hand is displayed: Spades (A, J, 3), Hearts (K, J, 9, 7), Clubs (A, J, 3), and Diamonds (J, 10, 7). A score of 4 is shown in the bottom right corner.

With a Minimum Hand

With 15 or a bad 16, we bid 2NT in response to the 2 Spade Bid.

WEST | NORTH | EAST | nycpro

Pass | Pass | 1NT

Pass | **2♠** | Pass | **3C**

bot | E

A Q 10 6 K J 6 A 7 6 Q J 10

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦

S nycpro 4

Detailed description: This image shows a bridge hand simulation. At the top, a bidding table shows West passing, North passing, East bidding 1NT, and the responder (nycpro) bidding 3C in response to a 2♠ bid. Below the table, the responder's hand is displayed: Spades (A, Q, 10, 6), Hearts (K, J, 6), Clubs (A, 7, 6), and Diamonds (Q, J, 10). A score of 4 is shown in the bottom right corner.

With a Maximum Hand

With a good 16 or 17, we bid 3 Clubs in response to the 2 Spade bid.

So, as the opener in the above hands, we are treating the 2 Spade bid as an invitation to game. If partner has clubs, she will clarify that with her next bid. The most important thing for the opener to remember is that these are the **only two choices** after the 2 Spade bid.

Note: These responses to the minor suit transfer bids won't matter too much when partner is signing off in their minor. They will have more relevance when we dig deeper into these conventional agreements in a later lesson.