

MORE on TRANSFER BIDS 1.

Transfer Bids

Transfers totally replace weakness takeouts over 1NT, **but they are much more than that.**

At their simplest, transfer bids are used after partner has opened 1NT or 2NT.

Respond 2♦ to show a **five card** heart suit. Respond 2♥ to show a **five card** spade suit.

They say nothing about your HCPs! You may have a mammoth slam hand, or a Yarborough.

Transfers work extremely well because:

After the 1NT opening bid it puts the **responding** hand in control of the auction.

If the responding hand is weak it allows the stronger 1NT hand to play the contract.

This ensures that the lead is coming round to the 1NT hand which may have awkward tenaces.

Used *with* 'Stayman', transfers allow you to make an accurate description of responder's hand.

They can disguise weak hands in a way that can make it difficult for the defence to enter the bidding.

They can provide an effective escape from 1NT which can be a very dangerous opening bid.

In short you must add them to your Acol system, even in this introductory form.

When your partner completes the transfer,

1. Pass with 0 - 10 HCPs.

After the completion of the transfer, a new suit bid by responder is FORCING for at least one round.

2. With 11+ pts. bid a 2nd four card major (or a five card minor). Opener cannot pass your rebid.

3. With 11/12pts. and an otherwise balanced hand bid 2NT (Do not rebid the 5 card suit again.)

4. With 13+ pts. and an otherwise balanced hand bid 3NT (Do not rebid the 5 card suit again.)

1NT	♠ 109863 ♥ 932 ♦ A62 ♣ 75	Bid 2♥ (Transfer) After partner completes the transfer to 2♠ PASS	1NT	♠ 863 ♥ 93 ♦ A9762 ♣ K75	PASS With five card minor suits. Only transfer into the major suits!
1NT	♠ 63 ♥ KQ932 ♦ A6 ♣ 7542	Bid 2♦ (Transfer) After partner completes the transfer to 2♥ PASS	1NT	♠ AK863 ♥ K32 ♦ A6 ♣ 754	Bid 2♥ (Transfer) After partner completes the transfer bid 3NT to show game values (13+) Do not rebid 4♥. Opener may only have two hearts!!!

With a 5/3 major suit fit, opener should usually opt to play in 4♥/♠

Partner	You	Your hand		Partner	You	Your hand
1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ863 ♥ K32 ♦ QJ6 ♣ 54		1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ985 ♥ K32 ♦ QJ3 ♣ Q5
2♠	2NT			2♠	3NT	
	<i>Showing 5 spades, 11/12 pts.</i>				<i>Showing 5 spades, 13+ pts.</i>	
Partner	You	Your hand		Partner	You	Your hand
1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ863 ♥ K932 ♦ QJ6 ♣ A		1NT	2♦ (Transfer)	♠ Q98 ♥ KQJ32 ♦ 976 ♣ 53
2♠	3♥			2♥	Pass	
	<i>Showing 5 spades, 4 hearts 13+ pts.</i>				<i>Showing 5 hearts, 0-10 pts.</i>	

TRANSFER BIDS 2.

Transfer bids are made by responder, over partner's 1NT or 2NT opening bids - to show a **5+** card major.
If you are adventurous - use them as well over 1NT overcalls by partner!

Note that the RESPONDING HAND is in CONTROL OF THE AUCTION.

After the completion of the transfer, responder's suit rebid is natural and FORCING.

2NT & 3NT rebids are limit bids.

Responding with strong two suited hands.
One 5 card major and a 5 card minor.

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQxxx ♥ Kx ♦ QJxxx ♣ A
2♠	3♦	
	<i>Showing five spades, five diamonds (13+)</i>	
Opener bids 3NT, 4♠ or 4♦/5♦		
He cannot pass!		

One 5 card major and a 4 card minor.

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQxxx ♥ Kx ♦ QJxx ♣ Kx
2♠	3NT	
	<i>Showing five spades (13-17)</i>	
Opener can PASS or bid 4♠		
He <i>knows</i> that you have five spades and with this fairly balanced hand it is not worth bidding a four card minor.		

Responding with strong balanced hands.
One 5 card major

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ753 ♥ K75 ♦ QJ3 ♣ Q2
2♠	3NT	
	<i>Showing FIVE spades (13-17)</i>	
Opener bids 3NT, 4♠ or 4♦/5♦		

1NT	2♦ (Transfer)	♠ AQ2 ♥ 86532 ♦ QJ8 ♣ K4
2♥	2NT	
	<i>Showing five hearts 11/12 pts.</i>	
Opener can PASS or bid 4♠		

1NT	2♦ (Transfer)	♠ 2 ♥ 975432 ♦ QJ8 ♣ 864
2♥	PASS	
	<i>Showing five hearts (0 -10)</i>	
Opener can PASS or bid 4♠		

Responding with strong two suited hands.
(Both majors)

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ532 ♥ K986 ♦ QJ4 ♣ 8
2♠	3♥	
	<i>Showing five spades, four hearts (13+)</i>	
Opener bids 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠		

1NT	2♥ (Transfer)	♠ AQ865 ♥ K9743 ♦ 62 ♣ A
2♠	3♥	
3NT	4♥	
	<i>Showing five spades, five hearts (13+)</i>	

1NT	2♦ (Transfer)	♠ AQ93 ♥ K8642 ♦ J3 ♣ 74
2♥	2♠	
	<i>showing five hearts, four spades (11+)</i>	
Opener can sign off with 3♥/♠ or 2NT.		

What happens if the opponents overcall!!

N	E	S	♠ 8 ♥ A6 ♦ QJ96543 ♣ 862
1NT	2♣	2♦	
2♦ is NOT a transfer			
After intervention all bids are NATURAL.			

2♦ is NOT forcing. Opener should pass.
To force, you would need to jump a level!

WITH 4 CARD MAJORS

Do you remember this one?

1NT	?	♠ KQ85 ♥ A4 ♦ QJ84 ♣ 973
What do you bid with this hand?		
STAYMAN		
7		

TRANSFER BIDS 3.

The following three variations of transfer bids require much more thought and should only be added to your game when, and if, you are handling the standard transfers well.

1. Stayman (Without 11 HCPs)

It has been made clear in earlier lessons that you require 11+ points before you use 'Stayman'.

Well, now there is the exception to that principle.

If, after your partner opens 1NT, you have 5/4 in the majors and a *weak* hand (0 -10) points and therefore no interest in game you *could* simply transfer into the five card suit.

♠ A9876
♥ K765
♦ 54
♣ 32

You could bid 2♥ (transfer to spades.) - but what if partner held -

♠ J5
♥ AQ98
♦ KQ98
♣ J76

You have missed your magic 4/4 fit in hearts.

The solution is to use 'Stayman'. If partner re-bids 2♥ or 2♠ you pass!

If partner re-bids 2♦ you bid your five card major and partner passes, (by partnership agreement).

The sequence has no other meaning. At worst partner will have ♠ J5 ♥ AQ9 ♦ KQ98 ♣ J765

2. Two spades (*A simple use of an unused bid)

The only two level response to 1NT which has no meaning so far is 2♠.

At the moment, we suggest that you use this bid simply as a transfer to 2NT.

Partner opens 1NT and you have a weak hand of 0-8ish pts. with 6+ of a minor, bid 2♠ to transfer into 2NT. After which, your 3♣ or 3♦ bids will be passed by opener. e.g. **(OBVIOUSLY, you have to agree this with partner!)**

♠ 65
♥ 842
♦ KJ108742
♣ 9

If you held a good six or seven card minor with 10 ish pts. many competitive players might simply risk 3NT, hoping to pull in six tricks in the minor suit

e.g.

♠ Q5
♥ 842
♦ AKJ874
♣ 92

On a good day 3NT will make.

IF you are wanting to move ahead more quickly, I can give you a more advanced use of this convention.

3. Transfers after 1NT is doubled*

1NT is a very good descriptive and pre-emptive bid, but it has its dangers. Although every first round double of a *suit* bid is for 'take out' the double of 1NT is for penalties, and you need some form of wriggle to escape.

We suggest that at this early stage, responder should use the opponent's double as an opportunity to **transfer** into any five card suit. Do so with 0-6 points. (With more points, pass unless very shapely)

N	E	S	W
1NT - Double		Re- double	tells opener to transfer to clubs.
1NT - Double		2♣	tells opener to transfer to diamonds.
1NT - Double		2♦	tells opener to transfer to hearts.
1NT - Double		2♥	tells opener to transfer to spades.

These transfers ensure that the contract is played by the stronger hand.

The lead is coming *around* to the probable tenaces, rather than *through* them.)

* This is the first part of an excellent wriggle which will be covered in the Intermediate level units.

RESPONSES USING TRANSFERS & STAYMAN

Partner opens		With this hand, you respond		Partner rebids	Now what and WHY?	
1.	1NT	♠ AJ874 ♥ 87 ♦ KQ9 ♣ A42	2♥ (transfer)	2♠	?	
2.	1NT	♠ 87 ♥ AK875 ♦ J97 ♣ A42	2♦ (transfer)	2♥	?	
3.	1NT	♠ 9872 ♥ AK87 ♦ J9 ♣ A42	2♣ (Stayman)	2♥	?	
4.	1NT	♠ KQ98 ♥ AK987 ♦ J9 ♣ 42	2♦ (transfer)	2♥	?	
5.	1NT	♠ 982 ♥ AJ987 ♦ 1092 ♣ A4	2♦ (transfer)	2♥	?	
6.	1NT	♠ AJ982 ♥ AJ987 ♦ 9 ♣ Q4	2♥ (transfer)	2♠	?	
7.	2NT	♠ AJ98 ♥ J9872 ♦ 97 ♣ Q4	3♦ (transfer)	3♥	?	
8.	2NT	♠ 8 ♥ K987 ♦ 10972 ♣ KQ109	3♣ (Stayman)	3♦	?	
9.	1NT	♠ J982 ♥ KQ987 ♦ 97 ♣ Q4	2♣ (Stayman)	2♠ 2♦	Pass 2♥	Four difficult responses that require special partnership agreement There are TWO occasions where you can use Stayman without 11 HCPs. Here, with 5/4 in the majors it gives you an extra chance to find a fit and stop at the 2 level.
10.	1NT	♠ QJ98 ♥ J987 ♦ Q1093 ♣ 2	2♣	2♠	Pass	The other time you can use Stayman without 11 HCPs is when you have a singleton or void in clubs. (4-4-4-1) You are guaranteed a response from partner which you will PASS!
11.	2NT	♠ QJ987 ♥ J987 ♦ 109 ♣ K4	3♠	4♥	Pass	With 5 spades and 4 hearts you cannot get to the best contract by a transfer. SO after a 2NT opening by partner 3♠ shows precisely 5 spades AND 4 hearts. (With 5 hearts and 4 spades use a normal transfer & rebid spades.)
12.	1NT	♠ 987 ♥ J9 ♦ KJ109732 ♣ 4	2♠	2NT	3♦	With 6+ diamonds in a weak hand, you would like to play in 2♦, but because 2♦ would be a transfer to hearts, many players use the meaningless bid of 2♠ to transfer to 2NTs. Then you bid your long minor. Partner PASSES.