

# Transfers after Transfers

Pete Matthews Jr - <https://3nt.xyz> - © October 1, 2023

Over partner's 1 NT opening bid, we bid Stayman and follow with 2 ♠ to invite game with 5 or more spades. This plan effectively makes this auction obsolete, as an invitation:

1 NT - 2 ♥; 2 ♠ - 2 NT

Do experts repurpose that?

Gavin Wolpert replied, "Most experts are shifting to transfers after transfers." Here is a summary of the plan he provided:

R2	1 NT - 2 ♦; 2 ♥ - ?	1 NT - 2 ♥; 2 ♠ - ?
2 ♠	All heart invitations.	-
2 NT	Secondary clubs, GF.	Secondary clubs, GF.
3 ♣	Secondary diamonds, GF.	Secondary diamonds, GF.
3 ♦	Six hearts - hand type 1.	5-5 majors.
3 ♥	Six hearts - hand type 2.	Six spades - hand type 1.
3 ♠	-	Six spades - hand type 2.

**5-5 majors.** If you have been paying careful attention, you'll see that the sequence for "all heart invitations" clobbers our sequence for an invitation with 5-5 majors. Wolpert says, with this hand, "just Stayman followed by 2 ♠. If partner bids 2 NT to accept you can retreat to 3 ♥. It backfires when opener is 2-3 and has a minimum which in reality will happen to you once every couple of years and if you are playing IMPs you can weather the storm." [♦<sup>1</sup>](#)

Playing this way, we don't need a special system over the 5-5 majors sequence at 3 ♦. It remains forcing to game, but is an important step lower than 3 ♥: after opener picks a major, that sets trump in an 8+ card fit at the three level, so serious 3 NT applies! Responder's 3 NT starts serious cue-bidding, or a courtesy cue is a mild slam try.

**6-Card major.** Wolpert says different people play different hand types [1 & 2], which he did not describe, for the 6-card major bids.

A simple way would be to play 3 M [type 2] as a choice of games, when worried about losing three trump tricks. The cheaper bid

[type 1], below 3 M, could be a slam try that needs cooperation. Remember that we use Texas instead, if we are ready to RKB.

### **Second transfer to a minor – opener’s suggested priorities:**

1. 3 M shows 3- or 4-card support, and sets trump.
2. 3 NT shows both side suits are well stopped.
3. A new suit shows this suit is well stopped, highlights the other. The other major is always available, and 3  $\diamond$  is available over a transfer to clubs.
4. 3  $\clubsuit$  over a transfer to clubs shows 4+ clubs.
5. 3  $\diamond$  over a transfer to diamonds is ambiguous. Responder bids as though opener has *clubs*, highlighting spades, because clubs cannot be bid below 3 NT. Whatever the quality of support, 4  $\clubsuit$  is nailed down as RKB  $\diamond$  (crosswood).

This plan is not perfect, but having the extra bid makes it way better than natural bids after transfers.

## **Backstory**

This framework came to me via updates in 2023 by Gavin Wolpert to his “4-Way Transfers with Range Ask” article on Bridge Winners. I have yet to play them, and they seem to need fleshing out. Suggestions are mine for after a transfer to a minor.

The best way to start down this path is to first assure responder uses Stayman and then 2  $\spadesuit$ , to handle all spade invitations. That sequence means opener is either weak or game-forcing (never invitational) after a transfer to 2  $\spadesuit$ . In turn, this opens up extra slots, employed for 5–5 majors and a second 6-card suit bid, after a transfer to spades.

## **♦ Alternative Methods**

<sup>1</sup>**5–5 majors invitational.** I came up with a method of handling 5–5 majors, invitational or better, at 3  $\diamond$ . It was not worth printing. Do it Wolpert’s way, which is clearly better when forcing to game.