



## **RED SUIT TRANSFERS (RST)**

**at Winchester Bridge Club,**

**Winchester Racquets & Fitness, Berewecke Road**

**Seminar presented by Bob McRobert  
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## What are Red Suit Transfers?

They are responses in a red suit (diamonds or hearts) to a No Trump opening bid or overcall by partner.

For example, if your partner opens 1NT, you can bid 2 Diamonds to show a heart suit (5 or more).

If you respond 2 Hearts, you are showing 5 or more spades.

In either case partner will complete the transfer by bidding the next suit up at the two level. After that it is up to you to make the next move.

RST can be used in response to 1NT opening bids, 1NT overcalls and 2NT opening bids.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

As you know, the point range of the opening 1 NT bid is announced by partner of the bidder as '12-14' or whatever the range is.

The point range of the 2NT opening bid is also announced, usually as '20-22' or whatever the range is.

Similarly, the transfer bid has to be announced by partner of the transfer bidder as 'hearts' when diamonds are bid or as 'spades' when hearts are bid.

The completion of the transfer should not be announced or alerted. RST can also be used in response to partner's 1NT overcall. Here the range of the 1NT bid is not announced nor alerted. The transfer bid in this case is alerted by partner rather than announced.

## Advantages of transfers

They allow the hand to be played by the no trump bidder, protecting that hand from the opening lead and making it more difficult to defend.

They give a wider opportunity to describe the responding hand and therefore to arrive at the best contract.

At the time of the transfer bid the strength of the responding hand is not known to the opponents.

## Disadvantage of transfers

You lose the natural weak take-out bid of 2 diamonds.

# Weak take-outs

Nearly always when partner has opened 1NT and you have a 5 card or longer major. So, with a hand where you would have used a weak take-out into a major, just bid 2 of the suit below your major, e.g. if you have 5 hearts, bid 2D, which partner will announce as showing hearts. Partner then completes the transfer by bidding 2 hearts and you pass next time.

If spades is your 5 card suit, you respond 2H, which partner announces as 'spades' and again you can pass if you are weak.

If you have two 5 card majors and are weak, you would not transfer. Instead, you would bid Stayman 2C, hoping to find a major suit fit. If partner responds 2 of a major, you can happily pass, knowing you have a 5-4 fit. If partner denies a 4 card major by bidding 2D, you simply bid 2H next. This sequence can also be used when you are weak and 5-4 in the majors, except after a 2D response, you would bid 2S with 5 spades and four hearts.

## Invitational balanced hands

If you have a fairly balanced responding hand, including a 5 card major, you can get the best of both worlds. Say your partner has opened 1NT (12-14) and you have 5 spades and 11 or 12 points.

Firstly, you bid 2H transfer to show the 5 spades, then partner completes the transfer by bidding 2 spades.

What do you do next? You bid 2NT. This is invitational to game. So partner can pass with a minimum and only 2 spades. He/she can bid 3S (to play) with a minimum and 3 or 4 spades. With a maximum, he/she can bid 3NT or 4S, depending on how many spades they have.

## Game-going balanced hands

If you have 13+ points as responder, you want to reach game. However, it is important to find the best game, 3NT or 4 of the major.

Suppose you have 5 hearts and a fairly balanced hand of 13-17 points and your partner has opened 1NT (12-14).

Again, the first step is to transfer by bidding 2D. Partner will complete by bidding 2H. What do you bid next?

NOT 4H, as your partner may only have 2 hearts. Instead, bid 3NT to give partner the choice. With only 2 hearts, partner can pass. With 3 or more hearts he/she should bid 4H, knowing there is at least an 8 card fit in hearts.



## 6 card or longer majors

How do we bid these?  
It depends on strength of hand.

With a weak take-out (0-9 points), just transfer and then pass the response to play at the two level, as you would with a natural weak take-out,  
e.g. 1NT - 2D - 2H - pass.

With 10-11 points, you would want to make an invitational bid. So start with the transfer, then bid your suit at the 3 level to invite,  
e.g. 1NT - 2D - 2H - 3H.

With 12+ points, you want to be in game. This time you would follow up the transfer by going straight to game in the major,  
e.g. 1NT - 2D - 2H - 4H.

## Two-suited hands

We have already covered *weak* hands with two 5 card majors. With a weak hand containing a 5 card major and 5 card minor, we would normally treat it as a weak take-out, transferring to the major and then passing.

With an *invitational* hand and two 5 card majors, we would first transfer to spades and then bid 3H to show the second major suit. This bid does not promise 5 hearts, it could be just 4. It is forcing to at least 3 spades and is highly invitational. If your partner bid 3NT and you were 5-5 in the majors, you would bid 4H now, as you must have at least a 5-3 fit in one of the majors.

With a *game-going hand* and two 5 card majors, you would bid the same way, except you would bid on to game anyway. So, if partner bids 3S over your 3H bid, you would continue with 4H, confirming that you are at least 5-5 in the majors.

With a 5 card major and a minor (4 or 5), provide that you are strong enough, you can transfer to your major and then follow up by bidding your minor at the 3 level. Again, this is forcing to the level of 3 of your major. It is a way of warning partner that you might be weak in the other suits, so if he/she bids 3NT, they need good stops there.

***PLEASE NOTE: IF THERE IS AN INTERVENING BID FROM THE OPPONENTS OVER PARTNER'S 1NT, TRANSFERS DO NOT APPLY. REVERT TO NATURAL BIDS.***

Transfers can be equally useful after a 1NT overcall from partner (usually 15-17 or 16-18) or a 2NT opening bid (usually 19-20 or 20-22).

So, 1H (opponent) - 1NT (partner) - pass (opponent) - 2H (you) is a transfer to spades.

Now for some practice hands.