

TEXAS TRANSFER

When partner opens 1 NT (or 2 NT), a jump to the 4 level in diamonds or hearts is a TEXAS Transfer showing at least a 6 card suit. With at least a 6 of a Major, you know you want to play in the Major because opener must have a least 2 of them and you therefore have at least an 8 card fit. If an opponent interferes over partner's NT opener, TEXAS transfers are still on AS LONG AS YOU CAN STILL JUMP. For example, if partner opens 1 NT and your RHO bids 2 clubs, you can still use 4D and 4H as Texas Transfers. If partner opens 1 NT and your RHO bids 2 spades, you can still use a jump to 4D as a Texas Transfer. However, if your RHO bids 3D over partner's NT, 4 Diamonds is not a Texas Transfer, because it's not a jump. (it would be asking partner to pick a major). You bid 4H (or 4S) as natural bids.

Partner opens 1NT and you're 6-4 in the majors, bid 2 clubs Stayman, if partner bids 2D, 4 diamonds or 4 hearts by you is Texas Transfer.

What sort of hand will you hold when you make a Texas Transfer? The most common hand will be one with a 6 card major and somewhere in the region of 7-11 HCP.

(a) AQ9653	(b) J109	(c) KQ10862	(d) QJ97642
74	Q109752	3	5
A64	5	QJ105	A73
J2	A74	Q4	62

I would use Texas Transfer with all of the above hands and Pass when partner bids 4H or 4S. Hands (b) and (d) only have 7 HCP, opposite partner's 17-17 HCP but your distribution makes 4 of a major into a worthwhile shot. In fact, with even more distribution, you might use Texas Transfer with even less HCP.

(e) QJ107654	(f) Q762	(g) 432
2	10987654	98765432
J1092	Void	Void
2	32	32

I'd use Texas Transfer on all of the above hands. 4 of the Major might easily make and if it doesn't, we may have prevented the opponents from finding their contract.

A second type of hand where Texas Transfers are useful is a strong hand with at least a 6 card major where you think you may make slam. Here's a hand to illustrate this:

K3	QJ109742	Partner open 1NT, 4 H by you
AK85	3	Texas Transfer, 4 spades by
9862	AKQJ	partner, 4 NT RKC in spades
AJ5	4	partner shows 3, bid 6 spades

One more thing about the use of Texas Transfers: Partner opens 1 NT, and you hold: AQJ1062 54 J3 A75. You know you want to play in spades and you know you must get to at least game. Should you Texas Transfer with 4 H and then pass partner's 4 S? Or do you think you should bid 4NT over partner's 4 S? I'm not sure how 4 NT would help you. Unlike the previous hand which only had 4 losers to inquire about, this hand needs to know about KS, AH, KH, AD, KD, KC, QC – RKC will not answer your problem. On the other hand, those same Bridge gods might have given your partner K84S, A93H, AKQ105D, 62C, and now you have 13 top tricks.

What I do with my 12 HCP spade hand is to tell partner that I don't have a hand where I'm just taking a shot at 4 Spades and I don't have a hand where I'm seriously thinking about a slam. WHAT I DO HAVE IS A HAND WHERE I'M SURE WE CAN MAKE 4 SPADES And MIGHT EVEN MAKE MORE IF THE OPENING 1NT HAPPENS TO FIT VERY WELL. In other words, it's a MILD slam try.

The way to tell partner that you have this "mild slam try" type of hand is not to use Texas Transfers at all, instead to begin with a Jacoby Transfer and then jump to game in your Major. Partner will know you don't have a hand where you're just taking a shot at game because you would have just used a Texas Transfer. If opener has the "right" cards, (controls, fit, maybe an outside 5 card suit), they might make a move if you used a Jacoby Transfer, then shown your 6 card suit.