

Extended Texas Transfer

By Henry Jackson

After Partner opens 1NT (or 2NT) and we have 6-4 or 4-6 in the majors, it's tempting to just transfer for the known 8+ card fit, but with both majors, we have a 67% chance of finding a fit in a major using Stayman. If we are lucky enough to find the 4-4 fit instead of the 6-4 fit, we may be able to take 12 tricks with amazingly few points.

Extended Texas allows us to try Stayman first and fall back on a Texas Transfer if a 4-4 fit is not found!

The process is simple! **Try Stayman first.** If Stayman fails, just bid **4 diamonds or 4 hearts** to transfer to your 6-card suit.

Example 1

♠ K Q 7 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A J 8 5
N					
W E					
S					
♥ K 9 8 7 5 2		♥ A 4			
♦ J 10		♦ A Q 8 7			
♣ 6		♣ 8 5 3			
<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>			
		1 N			
		2 ♠			
2 ♣		Pass			
4 ♠					

Here Stayman revealed the 4-4 Spade fit and West bid the game. Note that 12 tricks can be taken with a heart ruff and successful diamond finesse with only 23 combined high card points. Playing in the 6-4 heart fit will take a trick less because a trump trick must be lost.

Example 2

♠ K Q 7 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #006400; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ A J 8
N					
W E					
S					
♥ K 9 8 7 5 2		♥ A 4 3			
♦ J 10		♦ A Q 8 7			
♣ 6		♣ 8 5 3			
<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>			
		1 N			
		2 ♦			
2 ♣		4 ♥			
4 ♦					
Pass					

Here Stayman failed to find a 4-4 major fit. That was no problem because West bid 4 diamonds to transfer to 4 hearts.