

Communicating Slam Interest

How Good Are Our
Combined Hands?

Thinking About A Slam When Partner Has a Strong Balanced Hand

- It is natural to think about slam when partner opens 1 no trump and you have a strong hand.
- Don't get ahead of yourself. Your first task is to determine if you have a fit and then how strong a fit.
- A 6-3 fit is considerably stronger than a 6-2 or 5-3 fit, when considering slam prospects.

Jacoby Transfer vs. Texas Transfer

- The Texas transfer is done at the 4 level.

Opener..... Responder

1nt

4 ♦

4 ♥

pass

- The same idea applies for hearts transfer to spades.
- You use the Texas transfer when you want to be in game with no desire to go further.

Texas Transfer Hands

♠ A 5 2

♥ A Q 9 7 4 3

♦ 5 3

♣ K 8

♠ A Q 7 6 4 2

♥ 9 2

♦ K J 5

♣ 10 3

Using the Jacoby Transfer to Communicate Slam Interest

- The Jacoby transfer is done at the 2 level.

Opener..... Responder

1nt

2 ♦

2 ♥

4 ♥

- Consider the logic of this bid. Responder is saying, “If I was only interested in game I would have used Texas Transfer.”
- What do you think about slam... particularly, how good a fit do we have?

Responder's Hand

♠ A 5 2

♥ A Q 9 7 4 3

♦ 5 3

♣ K J

Responder communicates, "I'm not sure about a slam, but I have a pretty good hand."

Opener's Possible Hands

Hand 1

♠ K Q 8 7

♥ K 5 6

♦ A K 7

♣ Q 8 4

Hand 2

♠ K Q 8 7

♥ K 5 6

♦ A 7

♣ A 10 9 8

Hand 3

♠ K Q 8 7

♥ J 6

♦ A J 7

♣ A 8 4 2

Responder would hope opener would consider slam with Hand 1 or 2, but reject slam with hand 3.

A 6-Card Suit With Shortness

- When you have a 6-card suit and a singleton, you might need fewer high-card points.
- Nevertheless, you need a good bit more than a minimum hand to have slam interest.
- Using Jacoby transfer followed by a jump to the 4-level, shows a 6-card suit with shortness and slam interest.

Opener's Hands

1nt....2♦...2♥....4♦

Hand 6

♠ K 9 2

♥ K J 6 4

♦ A 7 6 4

♣ A J

Hand 7

♠ K Q 8 7

♥ J 6

♦ A Q 7

♣ Q J 10 4

Opener revalues his hand for slam possibilities. Hand 6, looks good. Hand 7 is less attractive.

Suppose Partner Opens 2 NT

- Partner has a much stronger hand, 20-21 points. You need less to have slam interest.
- When you have a 6-card suit, you know that there is a fit.
- You can work with the difference between the Texas and Jacoby transfer systems.
- You can transfer and bid a new suit at the four level to show slam interest with shortness.

Partner Opens 2 nt

- When you have a 5-card major and values to suggest you are in the slam range, if your hand is relatively balanced, you might forget the 5-card suit and go for a no trump game.
- If it is appropriate, you have Gerber available and the quantitative 4 no trump.

Partner Opens 2 nt...Responder's Hands

Hand 8

♠ 9 3

♥ K 9 5

♦ A K J 10 9 6

♣ J 7

Hand 9

♠ K Q 8 7 4

♥ J 6

♦ A Q 7

♣ J 10 4

Opener Responder
2nt 4 ♣

Opener Responder
2nt 6nt

Partner Opens 2 nt...Responder's Hands

Hand 10

♠ K 9

♥ K J 9 6 4

♦ A 7 6

♣ J 7 3

Hand 11

♠ 4

♥ K Q J 8 6

♦ A Q J 7 3

♣ 10 4

Opener	Responder
2nt	4nt

Opener	Responder
2nt	3♦

3♥	3nt
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4♥	4♠
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Partner Opens a 1-Level Suit Bid

- Your first task is to find a fit or be sure the hand will play in no trump.
- You cannot have slam interest until you know what the final contract will be in (suit or no trump).
- Once you are clear where the hand will play, you can evaluate your hand for slam interest.

Consider These Two Hands

Hand 12

♠ Q 7 3

♥ Q 9 5

♦ A 9 6

♣ K J 7 5

Opener

♠ A 10 9 8 5

♥ K J 10 3

♦ 8 7

♣ A 3

Hand 13

♠ K Q 3

♥ Q 9

♦ A K 6

♣ K 9 8 7 5

Partner

You

1 ♠

2 ♣

2 ♥

4 ♠

fast arrival

Partner

You

1 ♠

2 ♣

2 ♥

2 ♠

Slow arrival

Consider This Hand

Opener

♠ A K J 8 5

♥ 10 3

♦ A J 7 4

♣ K 3

Hand 14

♠ Q 7 3

♥ A K 5

♦ Q 9

♣ A J 9 6 5

Partner

1 ♠

2 nt

4 ♣

6 ♠

You

2 ♣

3 ♠

4 ♥

pass

Consider This Hand

Opener

♠ A K J 8 5

♥ Q 10 3

♦ A 7 4

♣ K 3

Hand 14

♠ 10 7 3

♥ A K J

♦ J 9

♣ A J 9 6 5

Partner

1 ♠

2 nt

4 ♣

4nt

??

You

2 ♣

3 ♠

4 ♥

5 ♥

Consider This Hand

Opener

♠ 10 8

♥ A K 10 7 2

♦ K 4

♣ A J 8 3

Hand 15

♠ 7 3

♥ Q J 5

♦ A 8 6

♣ K Q 10 6 5

Partner

1 ♥

3 ♣

4 ♣

You

2 ♣

3 ♥

4 ♥

Jacoby 2 No Trump

Opener

♠ A K 10 8 5

♥ 7

♦ K 9 3

♣ A J 8 3

Hand 16

♠ Q J 9 3

♥ A 5 2

♦ A 8 6 4

♣ K 9

Partner

1 ♠

3 ♥

4 ♦

You

2 nt

4 ♣

4 nt

Jacoby 2 No Trump

Opener

♠ A K 10 8 5

♥ 7

♦ Q 9 3

♣ Q J 8 3

Hand 17

♠ Q J 9 3

♥ A 5 2

♦ A 8 6 4

♣ K 9

Partner

1 ♠

3 ♥

4 ♠

You

2 nt

4 ♣

Jacoby 2 No Trump

Hand 1

♠ Q J 9 3

♥ A 5 2

♦ A 8 6 4

♣ K 9

Opener

♠ A K 10 8 5

♥ 7 4

♦ K 9 3

♣ Q J 8

Partner

1 ♠

4 ♠

You

2 nt

Blackwood won't
help

west

♠ J 9

♥ A K J 10 9 4

♦ A Q 6

♣ 9 6

north

♠ A K 7 6 4 2

♥ 3

♦ J 9 7

♣ 10 5 2

east (D)

♠ 8

♥ 8 7 5 2

♦ K 5 4 3 2

♣ A K Q

south

♠ Q 10 5 3

♥ Q 6

♦ 10 8

♣ J 8 7 4 3