

A Review of Transfers

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Playing Duplicate Bridge, the two most used conventions when opening 1NT are (1) the Stayman Convention with several variations and (2) Transfers.

The Stayman Convention with variations allow one to find major suit fits. In previous Bridge Tips, links follow, I have addressed Stayman, Crawling Stayman, Garbage Stayman, Smolen and Quest Transfers, Extended Stayman, Shape Asking Relays after Stayman (SARS), and other conventions after the bid of 1NT.

www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Rethinking%20Stayman.pdf

www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Stayman%20rev.pdf

www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Quest%20vs%20Smolen.pdf

www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/StaySmolen%20Crawling%20and%20Extended%20Stayman.pdf

Transfer Conventions which include Jacoby Transfers, Quest Transfers, Texas Transfers (some use South African), 4-Way Transfers, Two-Suited Transfers, Extended Texas Transfers, and others transfers that ensure the Notrump bidder, normally the person with the stronger bridge hand, plays in a major suit contract or NT. The topic of this Bridge Tip.

Transfers, like Stayman may be initiated with weak hands, $\leq 8\text{HCP}$, intermediate hands, 9-16HCP, or strong hands with 17+HCP (for a total point count of 32HCP).

Jacoby Transfers after 1NT=15-17HCP

Are used to show a 5+card Major suit Hearts or Spades.

$2\spadesuit/2\heartsuit$ Announced by Opener as a transfer to \heartsuit/\spadesuit after the 1NT bid

After completing the Transfer, Responder responses depend upon hand strength:

- PASS A weak hand $\leq 8\text{HCP}$
- Bid New Suit 4+card suit Game Forcing (GF) 10+HCP
- 2NT 5-card major 8/9HCP, invitational to 3NT/4M or PASS
- 3M 6-card major 8/9HCP, invitational to 4M or PASS
- 3NT 5-card major (5332/5422) 10-16HCP
- 4M 6-card major 10-16HCP with **slam interest**

In the above scheme the 1NT opener follow up bids are clear; however, as are continued bids except perhaps after the bid of 2NT when the 1NT opener has only two cards in the announced 5-card major. For example the bidding goes 1NT - 2♥ - 2♠ - 2NT - ?

And you hold 5♥ as follows ♠Q2 ♥AQ782 ♦KJ3 ♣A73 and 15HCP. 3NT may work but 4♥ would be better if partner has 3-hearts. So bid 3♥, a GF bid. Partner will bid 3NT or 4♥.

- 1NT - 2♥ - 2♠ - 2NT - 3♥ is forcing to 3NT or 4♥
- 1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT - 3♠ is forcing to 3NT or 4♠

Note that the bid of 4M using the Jacoby sequence shows mild slam interest, a strong hand with 16/17HCP. With 10-15HCP one would use **Texas Transfer Bids**.

Texas Transfers Bids with no slam interest

- 4♦ bid 4♥, no slam interest
- 4♥ bid 4♠, no slam interest

With slam interest after 4M responder may use 1430 RKCB after 4♠, but after 4♥ will use 4♠ as 1430 kickback for hearts.

With slam interest in NT, responder may bid 4♣ as **Expert Gerber**:

- 4♦ 1/4 aces
- 4♥ 0/3 aces
- 4♥ 2 aces with 15/16HCP
- 4♠ 2 aces with 17HCP, a Maximum (Quantitative Bid Equivalent Bid: 1NT-4NT)

Some may agree to bid 3♥/3♠ to show 17HCP and 4-card support known as **Super-Accept** bid or may bid 2NT* to show 3-card support known as the **Bell Convention**. The Super accept responses and the Bell convention are dangerous since responder may have 0HCP. To put the breaks on merely bid the major suit at the 3-level and use 3NT to force 4M.

When using Jacoby Transfers, some may use 4-way transfers which include the minor suits.

4-way Transfers

- 2♦^ Transfer to 5+Hearts
- 2♥^ Transfer to 5+Spades
- 2♠* Transfer to 6+ Clubs
- 2NT* Transfer to 6+Diamonds

Transfers to the majors follow the Jacoby responses and are announced (^) while the transfers to the minor suits are alerted (*).

With 4-way transfers you may not bid 2NT with 8HCP as invitational to 3NT. With 4-way transfers to “super accept” the transfer on may use the bid or the Gap by agreement.

For more on 4-way transfers use the link.

www.bridgewebs.com/ocala/Four-way%20transfers.pdf

Caution – Instead of 4-Way Transfers some pairs may play the 4-Suit Transfers which allows them to use 2♠* as **Minor Suit Stayman (MSS)** when 4-4 or 5-4 in the minors with Jacoby Transfers.

4-Suit Transfers

- 2♦[^] Transfer to 5+Hearts
- 2♥[^] Transfer to 5+Spades
- 2♠* MSS
- 2NT* Transfer to 6+ Clubs
- 3♣* Transfer to 6+Diamonds

After 2♠ for MSS 3m shows a 4-card minor and 2NT denies a 4-card minor.

An alternative to MSS is to use the Shape Asking Relay after Stayman (SARR Convention) if you do not have a 4-card major suit fit so that the bid of 3♣*= shape asking bid.

The Stayman Convention is used to find a 4-4 major suit fit and Quest Transfers or the Smolen Convention are used to find a 5-4 major suit fit. What do you do when you are 5-5 in the majors or minors or 6-4 in the majors?

When you are 5-5 in two suit minors or majors, the Mini-Maxi Convention and Extended Texas Transfers are use if you are 6-4 in the majors.

Mini-Maxi Convention after 1NT Opening Bid

- 3♣ 5-5 in minors <10HCP
- 3♦ 5-5 in minors ≥10HCP
- 3♥ 5-5 in majors <10HCP
- 3♠ 5-5 in majors ≥10HCP

Extended Texas Transfers

Used when using Stayman and failed to find a 4-4 major suit fit since the 1NT opener is 3-3 in the majors and responder is 6-4 in the majors. So, the bidding may go as follows: 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 4♦ = transfer to 4♥ and 4♥ = transfer to 4♠. Do not transfer to the 6-card suit and bid the other 4-card major since you are not 5-4 with game going values (do not use Smolen or Quest Transfers).