

Improved 4-Way Minor Suit Transfers

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General Structure

- 2♣ is Stayman and always promises a 4-card major.
- 2♦ is a transfer to hearts (**announced as hearts**).
- 2♥ is a transfer to spades (**announced as spades**).
- 1NT- 2NT is a transfer to a six-card diamond suit (**announced as a diamonds**). You give up 1NT-2NT bid as an 8-9 HCP invitational notrump raise.
- 1NT-2♠ is a transfer to clubs **or** a notrump size-ask bid with 8-9 pts and no 4-card major. (**Alertable**)
- 1NT-3NT shows 10+ HCP with or without a six-card minor suit (Don't transfer.)
- 1NT-3♣ or 3♦ shows a six-card suit, a strong hand, and slam interest. The opener bids a control up the line. (Partnership agreement is required for this treatment.)

The 2NT Response

- The opener **accepts the transfer** when holding an honor third or better in diamonds. (***Bid it if you like it.***) The responder can pass with a weak hand with diamonds or bid 3NT.
- The opener **rejects the transfer** by bidding 3♣. Responder corrects to 3♦ to play.

The 2♠ Response

- 1NT - 2♠ = Asks the opener about the size of the 1NT. Responder is holding a weak hand with a six-card club suit or an invitational hand with 8-9 HCP.
- Opener's Responses
 - 2NT = minimum 15 or bad 16, i.e., **would not accept** an invitation to 3NT. Responder passes.
 - 3♣ = a good 16 or a maximum notrump hand, i.e., **would accept** an invitation to 3NT. The responder passes with a weak hand with clubs or bids 3NT.

Advantage

- The standard treatment of 4-way transfers requires responder with an 8-9 HCP hand to bid 2♣ (Stayman) and then bid 2NT over opener's response, which is announced as "**may or may not have a 4-card major.**" Opponents now know information about opener's hand, e.g., does not have a 4-card major or does have a 4-card major which responder cannot support. With the improved treatment opponents know responder does not have a 4-card major but know nothing about majors in opener's hands.

Examples

Board 1

♠ A Q 10
 North Deals
 ♥ A 9 8 2
 None Vul
 ♦ K Q 2
 ♣ 9 8 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

15 ♠ 6 4 2
 ♥ K 7 3
 9 ♦ 7 6 4
 ♣ K Q J 10

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	?

Board 2

♠ A Q 10 7
 North Deals
 ♥ A 9 8
 None Vul
 ♦ K Q 2
 ♣ 9 8 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

15 ♠ 6 4
 ♥ 10 7 3
 6 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ K Q J 10 7 4

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	?

Board 3

♠ A Q J 7
 North Deals
 ♥ A 9 8 2
 None Vul
 ♦ A Q 2
 ♣ 9 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

17 ♠ 6 4
 ♥ 10 7 3
 6 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ K Q J 10 7 4

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	?

Board 4

♠ A Q J 9
 North Deals
 ♥ Q J 10
 None Vul
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ A Q J 10

	N	
W		E
	S	

17 ♠ 5 2
 ♥ 8
 3 ♦ Q J 10 7 6 5
 ♣ 9 8 7 6

<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	?

Board 5
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A K 9 8
 ♥ J 10 9
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ J 8 7



16 ♠ 7 6 5
 ♥ Q 8 7
 5 ♦ Q J 8 7 6 5
 ♣ 6

North South
 1 NT ?

Board 6
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A Q 7
 ♥ A Q 9
 ♦ K Q 9 4 3
 ♣ 4 3



17 ♠ J 9
 ♥ K J 6
 9 ♦ 10 8 7 6
 ♣ K J 10 5

North South
 1 NT ?

Board 7
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A Q 10 9
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ K Q 2
 ♣ Q 7 6 5



16 ♠ K J
 ♥ Q J 7
 11 ♦ A 8 7 6 5 4
 ♣ 10 9

North South
 1 NT ?

Board 8
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ A K J 10
 ♥ Q J 9
 ♦ K Q 10
 ♣ 10 9 5



16 ♠ 5
 ♥ K 6
 16 ♦ A J 6 2
 ♣ A K J 8 7 4

North South
 1 NT ?