

Three-Level Transfer Bids

By Neil H. Timm

When the opponents open 1NT=15-17 HCP, we now know that the best convention when interfering over the strong NT bid in the direct seat is the modified Blooman convention which are transfer bids to a 6-card suit since it puts the strong hand on lead (e.g., 3♣*=diamonds, 3♦*=hearts, 3♥*=spades, and 3♠*=clubs). Why transfer? The strong hand is on lead. Transfer bids are conventions in which one makes an artificial bid to tell his partner to bid a suit with or without interference as long as one may make a 2/3-level bid non-vulnerable and a 2-level bid vulnerable.

If you are 5-5 in two suits, one doubles (X*=Cappelletti) to show a 5-5 card hand and partner next bids 2♣* as a relay where then 2♦* shows the majors (5-5) and the other Cappelletti bids follow (e.g., 2♠* = 5 spades and a minor and 2♥* = 5 hearts and a minor; to find the minor the bid of 2NT is used. If you are 5-5 in the minors, one does not transfer, but bids 2NT.

In the balancing seat all bids are natural with a 6-card suit and a X*= Cappelletti when 5-5.

What should one do with pre-emptive 2/3 level bids? Again, the same strategy must be employed with weak 2/3-level bids. Yes, one must again use transfer bids with 6/7 card suits. Why? It again will put the strong hand on lead! The weak 2/3-level bids show 6-10 HCP.

Not playing transfers two things often happen: 1) One gets, and unfavorable lead made through the stronger hand or 2) having the strong hand exposed make it easier for the opponents to defeat the contract!

The forcing 3-level bids to show a 7-card suit are:

3♣* preempt to 3♦

3♦* preempt to 3♥

3♥* preempt to 3♠

3♠* preempt with 5-5 in the minors

3NT* = gambling with long minor – partner passes with stoppers or bids 4♣

* = alert

Partner completes the transfer for the suit bids or bids 3NT which is never to play but to see if the opening bidder has a singleton/void somewhere.

Over 3♣* - 4♣ is a Keycard ask for diamonds and over 3♦*/3♥* - 4♦ is a keycard ask for diamonds/hearts.

Over 3♠* - 4♣/4♦ is keycard Minorwood for the agreed bid minor

Let's look at an example:

Hand (1)

Opener	Partner
♠Q8	♠A54
♥AQ109876	♥K54
♦32	♦-
♣76	♣AK98765

Not playing transfers many bids:

Opener	North	Partner
3♥	3♠	4♦
4♥	Pass	Pass

Playing transfers:

Opener	North	Partner
3♦*	3♠	4♦
5♣	Pass	4♦
5♥	Pass	7♥
Pass		

Not playing transfer bids, one must bid 5♦ as exclusion Keycard Blackwood then 5NT=1 w Q. Partner may cue bid 6♣ and opener may bid 6♥ and partner may bid 7♥.

Hand (2)

Opener	Partner
♠KQ109876	♠J6
♥32	♥A104
♦K7	♦QJ43
♣7	♣KQJ3

Playing 2/1 the bidding may go:

Opener	Partner
3♠	3NT

The contract has no chance since opener has no entry to his hand.

Playing transfers bid the bidding goes:

Opener	Partner
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3♥	3NT* - Do you have a singleton/void?
3♠ No	Pass

In Hand (2) suppose openers hearts and clubs were reversed so that the singleton was opposite the heart ♥A. Then after 3NT*, opener would bid 3♥ to show his singleton and partner would bid 4♠.

We have suggested using transfers in the first seat when opening a hand. The same tactic may be used in the direct seat after the opponents have made a suit bid. However, if the opponent's bid and you are in the balancing seat the preempt should again be natural.

For 2-level bids for 6-cards similar logic applies; the transfer bids are:

2♦* preempt to 2♥
 2♥* preempt to 2♠
 2♠* preempt with 5-5 in the minors

*=alert

Hand (3)

Opener	Partner
♠QJ10976	♠K5
♥K9	♥QJ532
♦798	♦A1054
♣Q5	♣32

Playing 2/1 the bidding may go:

Opener	Partner
2♠	2NT*
3♠	Pass

Playing transfers:

Opener	Partner
2♥*	Pass

Playing 2/1 without transfers, your 3-level bid goes down 2 while playing transfers you make 2♥.

Let's now suppose partner has the following hand (4).

Opener	Partner
♠AQ10976	♠K5
♥K98	♥QJ532
♦7	♦A1054

♣1087

♣32

Playing 2/1 the bidding may go:

Opener	Partner
2♠	2NT*
3♦* Feature	4♠
Pass	Pass

Playing transfers:

Opener	Partner
2♥*	3♥
4♦* shortness with hearts	4♥
Pass	Pass

Playing transfers, the 5-3 fit is found. Playing in a 5-3 fit is better than a 6-2 just like a 4-4 fit is better than a 5-3 fit.

Playing 2/1 without transfers some may also find the heart fit with the bidding sequence:

Opener	Partner
2♠	2NT*
3♦* Feature	3♥
4♥	Pass