

Texas Two's

Provided by Neil H. Timm

If one opens a strong 1NT* (15-17) and partner has 6+card major, a drop dead convention without slam interest in a major suit is the Texas Transfer conventional bids of 4♦*/4♥* purposed simultaneously by David Carter of the USA and Olle Wilner of Sweden. To invoke the convention responder needs between 10-14 dummy points, enough for game and not enough for a small slam, which allows the 1NT* bidder to play the hand in game in the major with at least two cards in the major.

Be careful if partner opens 1NT* with a singleton A/K/Q in a major. If you play Texas Transfers, you should agree to allow this to occur for only the minors.

Can one play both Jacoby Transfers and Texas Transfers? Yes.

To use the Jacoby Transfer one needs at least a 5-card major, but may have zero points? The transfer bids are now made at the 2-level with 2♦*/2♥* over 1NT*.

It would appear that the two conventions are redundant? They are not. Texas Transfers are used when one has no interest in slam; however, this not the case with Jacoby Transfers since responder's point are unknown and without limit.

Your partner opens 1NT* and you have the hand: ♠Q7 ♥AK10965 ♦102 ♣A84
Do you use Texas or Jacoby?

The hand has 13HCP and $13+17=30 < 32$ so you say Texas, right game only no slam!

Wrong, it depends on dummy points not HCP. You have 13HCP+2 length points+1 for a quality suit (3 of 5 honors) -1 (worthless doubleton)= 15 and $15+17=32$ so you want to use Jacoby and then bid 4NT as a quantitative bid with slam interest.

The choice between Jacoby and Texas may at times be difficult. For this reason Al Roth had a rule for Texas Transfers vs. Jacoby Transfers. **Roth Texas Transfers are defined as a 6+card major suit with 2 of the top 3 honors, a 4-card side suit, worthless short suits (Jxx), and 10+ dummy points.** If one cannot meet all four conditions, use Jacoby Transfers (i.e. slam interest).

Partner opens 1NT* and you hold: ♠7 ♥AQ10643 ♦AQ82 ♣84

You have 12HCP + 1 Quality + 2 Length = 15 dummy, 2 of top 3, 4-card side suit and worthless short suit implies use Roth Texas Transfers (e.g. game only no slam interest).

If you play Forcing Stayman over 1NT* you normally do not play Jacoby Transfers since you may open 1NT* with a 5-card major. If play Texas and Jacoby with just Stayman,

not Forcing Stayman you may still have difficulty deciding between the two transfers. To address this problem, one may play the Texas Two Transfer Convention (Texas Two's)!

Texas 2-level transfers are used when the 1NT* bidder has 15-17 HCP and partner has any 5-card suit:

2♦* = transfer to hearts
2♠* = transfer to spades
2♣* = transfer to a minor suit

After responder's bid, the 1NT* is required to complete the transfer with any minimum=15/16HCP. Or with a maximum=17HCP after 2♦*/2♥* **and 4-cards the major with a doubleton bid 3♥/3♠ or 2NT* with 3-card support** as invitational game bids. Responder next bids are as follows:

(1) With 0-7HCP (Texas Two's with Crawling Stayman)

Garbage and Crawling Stayman with Stayman/Forcing Stayman

After a 1NT* opening by partner, the bid of 2♣/2♣* is employed to show a weak 3-suited hand, with 0-7 points. It is referred to Garbage Stayman with 4-4-4-1 distribution and Crawling Stayman with 4-4-x-y or 3-4-x-y or 4-3-x-y distribution.

With Garbage Stayman you pass the bids of 2♦/2♥/2♠.

With Crawling Stayman you pass only the major suit bid and over 2♦ you bid 2♥*. This asks partner to pass or correct to 2♠. Hence you may be playing at the 2-level in a major with either a 4-4 or 4-3 fit. However, it is usually better than NT.

Some examples weak hands where you may use Garbage /Crawling Stayman

(4-4-4-1) ♠10345 ♥A1084 ♦7892 ♣7

(4-3-4-2) ♠Q652 ♥Q43 ♦9762 ♣J5

(3-4-3-3) ♠QJ3 ♥AJ98 ♦978 ♣982

(2) With 0-8dummy points (may also use Stayman/Forcing Stayman)

If responder bids 2♦*/2♥* and opener bids 2♥*/2♠*, responder must pass with 7HCP or bids 2NT with 8HCP and the 5-card major.

If opener bids **3♥/3♠ or 2NT***, responder re-evaluates, passes or bids game.

If responder bids 2♠*, opener bids

2NT*= I prefer diamonds and responder passes or bid clubs

3♣ = I prefer clubs and responder passes or bids diamonds

Assume opener has the following hand: ♠AQ2 ♥K78 ♦K65 ♣A1098 with 16HCP and responder holds:

(a) ♠987 ♥QJ653 ♦J4 ♣K52	Opener	Responder
	1NT*	2♦*= 7dummy points
	2♥	Pass
(b) ♠J54 ♥Q5643 ♦Q4 ♣K52	Opener	Responder
	1NT*	2♦*= 8dummy points
	2♥	2NT=5♥ & 8dummy points
	3♥	Pass
(c) ♠54 ♥J43 ♦Q4 ♣K7642	Opener	Responder
	1NT*	2♠*=6dummy points
	3♣	Pass
(d) ♠K54 ♥J3 ♦Q109874 ♣76	Opener	Responder
	1NT*	2♠*=7dummy points
	2NT*	3♦
	Pass	Pass

Suppose the 1NT* bidder had the hand: ♠AQ2 ♥A78 ♦K65 ♣A1098 with 17HCP and responder held hand (a).

(a) ♠987 ♥QJ543 ♦J4 ♣K52	Opener	Responder
	1NT*	2♦*= 7dummy points
	2NT*=max w3	4♥=8re-evaluated dummy points

(3) With 9-14 dummy points (game invitational)

If responder bids 2♦*/2♥* and opener bids 2♥*/2♠*, responder bids 2NT with 9+HCP and the 5-card major.

With a minimum, opener may pass or bid 3M with 3-card support

With a maximum, opener bids 3NT or 4M with 3-card support

If opener bids 3♥/3♠ or 2NT*, responder re-evaluates, passes or bids game.

If responder is 5-4 in the majors he uses Stayman with Smolen**, and with a 6-card major Roth Texas Transfers (4♦*/4♥*).

If responder has a 6-card minor he bids 3NT and with five, bids 2♠*, opener bids

2NT*= I prefer diamonds and responder 3♦/3♣/3NT

3♣ = I prefer clubs passes bids 3♦/3NT

** Recall that Smolen requires 10-14HCP and if you have only 9HCP and do not use Quest Transfers you may use the following invitational sequence with 9HCP

1NT* - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2♠ show 4hearts and 5 spades

1NT* - 2♥ - 2♠ - 3♥ show 4spades and 2 hearts

Suggested by Ron Klinger's Keri 1NT Bidding System in Ron Klinger (2000) "Bid Better, MUCH BETTER, Modern Bridge Publications.

Looking at a few examples.

(a)	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
	♠AQ	♠K9572	1NT*	2♥=9points
	♥A54	♥K7	2♠	2NT=10points
	♦K764	♦Q82	3♠=16points	4♠
	♣Q43	♣987	Pass	Pass

(b)	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
	♠AJ43	♠K9572	1NT*	2♥=10points
	♥A542	♥K7	3♠=17	4♠
	♦K7	♦Q82	Pass	Pass
	♣KQ3	♣J87		

I opener did not re-evaluate and bid only 2♠, responder would bid 3NT and opener would bid 4♠.

(c)	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
	♠AQ4	♠572	1NT*	3NT=10points
	♥A542	♥K7		
	♦K76	♦82		
	♣K43	♣AQ9876		

Do not transfer.

(4) Responder is 5-5 in two suit and not playing The Modern Roth 1NT System, I suggest the Mini-Maxi Convention:

3♣* = 5-5 in minors < 10HCP

3♦* = 5-5 in minors ≥ 10HCP

3♥* = 5-5 in majors < 10 HCP

3♠* = 5-5 in Majors ≥ 10HCP

There are numerous conventions when 5-5; however, if you play 2♣ as Stayman or Forcing Stayman (2♣*) and not Puppet/Muppet Stayman then many pairs replace 3♣*=Puppet/Muppet Stayman. Hence, you should ask what the 3-level bids mean or ask to look at their Convention Card.

For an overview of numerous options see Terrence Quedsted (2006, p 202), “The Definitive Guide to (strong) NO Trump Bidding, Stayman and Transfers”, Trafford Publishing.

For The Modern Roth 1NT System see Albert Roth (1991, P. 185) “Picture Bidding”, published by Alvin Roth and Granovetter Books.

(4A) Responder is a 6-4 or 6-5 and two suited (slam zone=15+)

(a) A simple approach is to use Stayman/Forcing Stayman with super accepts:

1NT* - 2♣/2♣* - 2♦/2♥/2♠ - 3♣*/3♦*/3♥*/3♠*=6-card suit

After opener’s bid, responder bids his second suit to show his 4/5-card suit. This bid also asks opener for the number of controls in the two named suits.

(b) 1NT* - 2♦*/2♥*/2♠* - 2♥/2♠/3♣ - 4x=4/5-card second suit and is control ask bid for the two suits.

Note if responder were 5-5 he would use the Mini-Maxi Convention.

(a)	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
	♠K62	♠AQJ765	1NT*	2♣*=17 points
	♥KQ54	♥AJ872	2♥	3♠=6-spades
	♦A82	♦Q82	4♠	5♥=4/5hearts
	♣A54	♣76	6♣=2controls	6♥
			6NT	7NT
(b)	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
	♠K62	♠AQJ765	1NT*	2♥*
	♥A54	♥76	2♠	4♣=6♠+4/5♣
	♦A82	♦-	4♠=2controls	6♦
	♣KQ54	♣AJ872	6♥	6NT
			7NT	Pass

(5) Responder is 5-4 10+HCP (slam zone=15+) using Smolen

Smolen

Used when responder is 5-4 in the majors and has 10-15 points, game-going values. With 8-9 points, one usually uses a transfer into the 5-card major by bidding 2(transfer to hearts - announced) or 2(transfer to spades - announced). If you are 5-4, you can transfer to hearts and bid spades; this allows you to play at the 2-level in spades. You should not do this with spades, since you will be at the 3-level; however, if you are not vulnerable, it is also a safe practice. Note when transferring to a major and bidding the

other major, some partnerships require that you are 5-5 in the majors. Always discuss transfers and conventional practices with your partner.

The Forcing Stayman Convention with Smolen

The convention used for locating a 4-4 major suit fit after partner opens 1NT. The artificial bid of 2♣* initiates the convention and is used when responder has 8+ points and one or both majors.

Some examples of game-invitational (or stronger) hands opposite a 15-17 NT:

♠A1032 ♥A1074 ♦789 ♣Q10 ♠KQJ52 ♥Q432 ♦976 ♣J

♠QJ32 ♥AJ98 ♦57 ♣1082 ♠AKQ10 ♥AQ57 ♦A2 ♣J10

The conventional responses assume NO INTERFERENCE.

Opener's Bids after 2♣*

- 2♦ Denies a four-card major.
- 2♥ Shows four hearts may have four spades.
- 2♠ Shows four spades, denies four hearts.

Responder's rebids after 2♦ by opener

- 2♥ Shows four spades and five hearts, invitational. Non-forcing. (Responder bids the 5-card suit and not the 4-card suit.)
- 2♠ Shows five spades and four hearts, invitational. Non-forcing. (Responder bids the 5-card suit and not the 4-card suit.)
- 2NT Invitational (9 points)
- 2♣ Game forcing with at least five clubs (usually 6), denies a 4-card major.
- 3♦ Game forcing with at least five diamonds (usually 6), denies a 4-card major.

- 3♥* Shows five spades and four hearts, game forcing (Smolen - Responder bids his short suit at the 3-level, the reverse of the non-forcing 2-level bid). Opener is asked to bid 3♠ with a 3-card spade suit, or 3NT with 2 spades (*=alert).

- 3♠* Shows five hearts and four spades, game forcing (Smolen- Responder bids his short suit at the 3-level, the reverse of the non-forcing 2-level bid). Opener is asked to bid 3NT if he only holds 2 hearts, or 4 if he has 3 hearts. (*=Alert).

- 3NT Signoff.

- 4♥ Shows four spades and six hearts, signoff.

- 4♠ Shows six spades and four hearts, signoff.
- 4NT Quantitative, invites 6NT if partner has 17 HCP.

Responder's rebids after 2♥ by opener

- 2♠ Shows 5-spades and four hearts, invitational. Non-forcing. (Responder bids the 5-card suit and not the 4-card suit.)
- 2NT Shows 4-spades, less than four hearts, invitational. Opener can pass, sign-off in 3 with four spades, or bid 3NT.
- 3♣ Game forcing with at least five clubs (usually 6), denies a 4-card major.
- 3♦ Game forcing with at least five diamonds (usually 6), denies a 4-card major.
- 3♥ Shows four hearts invitational.
- 3♠ Shows four spades, game forcing showing 5 spades and 4 hearts.

- 3NT Signoff.
- 4♥ Signoff.

- 4NT Quantitative (responder has 15+), invites 6NT if partner has 17HCP.

Responder's rebids after 2♠ by opener

- 2NT Invitational
- 3♣ Game forcing with at least five clubs (usually 6), denies a 4-card major.
- 3♦ Game forcing with at least five diamonds (usually 6), denies a 4-card major.
- 3♥ Shows 4-spades and five hearts, game forcing.
- 3♠ Shows 4-spades, invitational.

- 3NT Signoff shows four hearts.
- 4♠ Signoff.

- 4NT Quantitative (responder has 15+), invites 6NT if partner has 17HCP