



These Transfer Bids were popular during the 1980s and were used by many bridge players. This is the extended version of the *Jacoby Transfer* after an opening of 1 No Trump by the responder to transfer to all four suits. The range of the No Trump opening becomes irrelevant as long as the partnership agreement raises or lowers the expected number of values to be held by the responder for game contracts.

This is the system preferred by some bridge professionals to transfer the 1NT opener into a 5-card major or a 6-card minor. If Four Suit Transfers are used, the stronger hand becomes declarer. Having the strong hand hidden will often create more difficulty for the defense and will often yield an extra trick for declarer. This is particularly true when the long suit is a 5-card major; when the long suit is a 6-card minor, there is less advantage to having the strong hand hidden.

FOUR-SUIT TRANSFERS — THE CONCEPT

2♦ — Transfer to ♥
2♥ — Transfer to ♠
2♠ — Transfer to ♣
2N — Transfer to ♦

Because [Jacoby transfers](#) are already discussed separately, this page will focus on the minor suit transfers. The 2 and 2NT bids are used on the following types of hands: A weak hand with a 6+ card minor lacking interest in game. The purpose is to let the strong hand (opener) play the contract and conceal its high cards from the defenders. A strong hand with a 5+ card minor with interest in slam.

Note the gap in values between "weak" and "strong" hands. If responder has values sufficient for game but not slam, she should either begin by bidding [2 Stayman](#) with a 4-card major, or by bidding 3NT immediately.

If the responder bids 2 Spades or 2 No Trump, then the No Trump bidder should accept the transfer. This opener will do, if he has a fit in the suit of the responder. If the opener does not have a fit in the suit of the responder, then the No Trump bidder will make an intermediate bid.

If the responder has equal distribution in both Minor suits and is weak in high card points, the responder will bid 2 No Trump as a transfer, and pass the rebid of the opener.

Note: Once the responder transfers to a certain suit, then the No Trump bidder can show both a good fit and the maximum range of the agreed No Trump opening. The No Trump bidder can accomplish this by bidding the intermediate suit, which is only one step above the transfer bid of the responder. (See Example 3 below.)

Note: Four Suit Transfer bids were normally made on weak values with suit length. However, the concept has evolved and continuances have been introduced to allow the partnership to show stronger values. This is achieved by the responder bidding a new suit following the transfer bid.

RESPONDER BIDS

1

♠ A Q 2	♠ 6 5
♥ A K 8	♥ Q 9
♦ 10 9 4	♦ K J 8 7 5 2
♣ K Q 7 6	♣ 8 5 4



Support in Clubs
Decide on Game

WEST	EAST
1NT	2NT
3♦	Pass

2

♠ A 8 6	♠ K Q J
♥ 7	♥ J 10 8
♦ Q 8 5	♦ A K 9 4
♣ K J 10 9 4 3	♣ Q 7 6



Mini-Splinter
Game Forcing with
Slam Interest

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♠
3♣	3♥
4♣	5♣

- Shows a No Trump range of 15 to 17 points. The range can be of a different range, but then the partnership must adjust the combined values accordingly. This first response transfers the No Trump bidder to Diamonds. Transfer accepted and bid. The responder passes since the responder is unable to improve the contract.
- Shows a No Trump range of 15 to 17 points. The range can be of a different range, but then the partnership must adjust the combined values accordingly. This first response transfers the No Trump bidder to Clubs. Transfer accepted and bid. The responder, wishing to show game values, bids the suit, in which he holds a singleton or void. The No Trump bidder realizes that a strong inference must be made that there is no stopper in the Heart suit. The No Trump bidder decides to support the long suit of the responder. The responder signs off in game.

EXERCISE ONE

1

♠ 5 4 2
♥ 8 3
♦ 9 3
♣ K J 8 7 6 3

2

♠ 5
♥ 8 3
♦ Q J 10 8 7 3
♣ 7 6 3 2

3

♠ K J
♥ 8 3
♦ A Q 9 8 5 4
♣ 7 6 3

1		2		3	
WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST
1NT	2♠	1NT	2NT	1NT	3NT
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass	

You are East. Your partner opens the bidding with 1NT
what is your response, what is your rebid?

- 1) Bid 2♠, intending to pass after partner bids 3♣.
- 2) Bid 2NT, and pass after partner bids 3♦.
- 3) Bid 3NT. Your side has a combined 25-27 HCP, which is good enough for game but not for slam.

EXERCISE TWO

Scenario 1: **Good ♣ Fit Maximum Values**

♠ K 2	♠ A 8 7	♠ 8 7
♥ A J 3	♥ A 9	♥ A K 5
♦ A Q 9 8 7	♦ Q 5	♦ Q 5
♣ 7 6 3	♣ K J 10 9 8 4	♣ A K J 10 8 5

WEST	EAST
1NT	2NT
3♦	3NT

Scenario 2: **QUANTITATIVE**

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♠
2NT	4NT
6♣	Pass

Scenario 3: **GERBER**

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♠
2NT	4♣
6♠	6♣

You are East. Your partner open's the bidding with 1NT what is your response, what is your rebid?

1) Bid 2NT. You have mild slam interest opposite a good diamond fit. Note that you only need a 5-card suit when transferring with a strong hand.

2) Shows a No Trump range of 15 to 17 points. The range can be of a different range, but then the partnership must adjust the combined values accordingly. This first response transfers the No Trump bidder to Clubs. The No Trump bidder shows a good fit for Clubs and the maximum range for the agreed No Trump opening. The responder shows slam interest with borderline values, but allows the No Trump bidder to decide. With slam values the responder initiates Gerber. (Note: many partnerships base borderline values on the inferred number of Losing Tricks.) The No Trump bidder, with maximum values and good Club support, bids the small slam in Clubs following the quantitative and inviting bid of 4 No Trump by responder. A Heart lead might defeat the contract.

3) Shows a No Trump range of 15 to 17 points. The range can be of a different range, but then the partnership must adjust the combined values accordingly. This first response transfers the No Trump bidder to Clubs. The No Trump bidder shows a good fit for Clubs and the maximum range for the agreed No Trump opening. **Gerber:** It is strongly recommended for the partnership that all Ace or Keycard-asking methods should be based on Gerber in order that the level of bidding not exceed a game contract in a Minor suit. (bid) The small slam is bid in Clubs by the responder. If the responder sees a good chance for a contract of 6 No Trump, then this is the decision made by the responder.

THE INVITATIONAL 2NT RESPONSE

1	<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A 9 7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♥ K 2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♦ J 10 7 6</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♣ 10 7 6 3</p>	You are East	<p style="margin: 0;">♠ A 10 9 7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♥ K 2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♦ J 10 7 6</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♣ 10 7 6</p>	2												
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When asked which bridge convention he disliked the most, the late Bobby Goldman once answered, "Any use of 1NT - 2NT which is not natural." Nevertheless, four-suit transfers require responder to describe a natural 2NT invitation by alternative means. This is done by running game-invitational hands through [Stayman](#) first, and then rebidding 2NT.

The shortcoming of [Four Suit Transfers](#) and the primary reason that many professionals prefer to use 2S to get to a final contract of 3C or 3D is that they prefer to use a direct response of 3C or 3D over 1NT to show a hand with about 5-8 HCP, 6+ cards in the long minor, and two of the top three honors in the minor with no other A or K in a side suit. The 3C or 3D bid asks partner to pass without a sure entry into the long minor suit or to bid 3NT with a sure entry.