

Single course: Intro to Jacoby Transfers over 1 No Trump

Etobicoke BC (from Conventions Course Notes) Last revised March 25/18

Transfers are bids that are artificial and force partner to make the next available bid. Standard bidding over a 1 No Trump opening is a sign-off in any 2-bid except 2 Clubs (Stayman) and shows a 5+ card suit, in an effort to improve the contract. Playing Jacoby transfers over 1NT, instead, means that you bid the suit just below your 5+ card suit, forcing partner to bid your suit. If you have hearts, you bid 2 Diamonds, if you have spades, you bid 2 Hearts. You cannot transfer to diamonds at the 2-level because 2 Clubs is not available.

Why use transfers?

- The main reason is that it makes the 1 NoTrump opener the declarer. Since opener will almost always have more points than responder, it hides the majority of the side's points, making it harder for the defense.
- The 1NT opener often has holdings that are ideal in 4th (last) position on the opening lead. Consider suit cards such as AQx, or Kx. In 4th position, having Kx, for example, in a suit guarantees a trick/stopper (on opening lead), but would not do so in 2nd position.
- They make it easier to invite game, since responder has more bidding room

Transfers can be used with any number of points

- Holding S xx H Q9xxx D xx C xxxx bid 2 Diamonds, then pass partner's 2 Heart bid.
This shows 0-7 pts and 5+ hearts.
- Holding S KJxxx H xx D Axxx C Kx bid 2 Hearts, then bid 3NT over partner's 2 Spades.
This shows 10-15 pts and exactly 5 Spades
- Holding S Axx H QTxxx D xx C Qxx bid 2 Diamonds, then bid 2NT over partner's 2 Hearts. This shows 8-9 pts, exactly 5 Hearts, and is invitational to 3 NT or 4 Hearts. With exactly 2 hearts, partner can Pass, or bid 3NT. With 3+ hearts, partner will bid 3 or 4 Hearts.

If you have 6 or more cards in your major suit, you know your side has a golden (8-card) trump fit, since partner should hold at least 2 cards in every suit for a 1 NT opening. Play in the major at the appropriate level.

- Holding S AJ10xxx H xx D xxx C xx bid 2 Hearts, then PASS over partner's 2 Spade rebid. This shows 0-7 Pts and 6+ Spades
- Holding S xx H KQJxxx D Ax C xxx bid 2 Diamonds, then bid 4 Hearts over partner's 2 Heart rebid. This shows 10-14 pts and 6+ hearts
- Holding S KJ10xxx H x D Kxx C xxx bid 2 Hearts, then bid 3 Spades over partner's 2 Spade rebid. This shows 8-9 pts and 6+ spades, and is invitational to 4 Spades.

Please Turn Over

Transferring to a minor suit

Transfers over 1NT Opening (Page 2 of 2)

You can also transfer to a minor suit, but it is much rarer, as you need a 6+ card suit, and have to play at the 3-level. Bid 2 Spades to transfer to clubs or diamonds. Best to only do this with a very weak hand.

- Holding S xx H x D Qxxx C J10xxxx bid 2 Spades, then pass partner's forced 3 Club bid. This shows 6+ clubs and 0-7 HCPs.
- Holding S xx H xx D QJxxxx C xx bid 2 Spades, then bid 3 Diamonds over partner's 3C bid.
- Holding S xx H Jx D AQxxxx C Kxx Don't transfer, just bid 3 NT. If a minor slam is unlikely, forget your suit and play the 9-trick NT game

Transfers over 2NT Openings

Transfers are also on over both a 2NT opening (and a 2C – 2X – 2NT sequence). Here transfers allow greater flexibility as with a bust hand, responder can pass the transfer and play at the 3-level.

Over partner's 2NT Opening;

- Holding S Jxxxx H xx D xxx C xx Bid 3H, then Pass partner's 3S bid

With exactly 5 of either major and 5+ HCPs, transfer, then bid 3NT. Partner will pass with 2 cards in your major, with 3+ cards he will bid 4 Major

- Holding S xx H KQxxx D Qxx C xxx Bid 3D, then rebid 3NT over partner's 3H bid

Over 2C – 2D (waiting) – 2NT (showing 22-24 HCPs), bid as over 2NT direct opening, but allowing that partner has an even better hand

- Holding S QJxxxx H xx D x C xxxx Bid 3H, then rebid 4S over partner's 3S bid

(note most open players use Texas transfers, which means with a 6+ card major and desire to play game, you immediately bid 4D or 4H to have partner play in 4H or 4S)

Hmwk: Transfers over 1NT, 2NTs Excel worksheet

Email Steve with any questions: etobicokebridge@gmail.com

WHAT A GAME !!