

Even more on Transfers (Advanced Level)

Transferring at the 2-level with 5 Hearts and 4 Spades

The sequence is 1NT-2♦-2♥-2♠ is forcing for one round showing 11+ points and atleast 5-4 shape in hearts and spades. It allows opener to choose the best contract.

WEST	EAST	EAST
1NT	2♣	♠ Q 8 4 2
2♦	2♥	♣ A Q 8 7 6
?		♦ 4
		♣ K 7 6

This sequence shows a responding hand of 5+ hearts and 4+ spades and at least invitational points. It is forcing for one round.

Now that opener has a good picture of responder's hand any of the following bids are possible: 2NT, 3♥, 3♠, 3NT, 4♥, 4♠. Let's look at some possible West hands and see what we should bid after the auction above.

WEST 1
♠ K 9 7 3
♥ A 5
♦ Q 8 7 6
♣ K 5 4

3♠
Minimum hand with
spade fit

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

3NT
Max hand with no major
it fit

WEST 3
♠ A 7 3
♥ J 5 3
♦ Q J 7 6
♣ A 8 4

3♥
Minimum hand with
heart fit

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

4♥
Maximum hand with
heart fit

Opener bids in this way because responder might only have an invitational hand. If responder's hand is stronger he will continue to game if opener bids 2NT, 3♥ or 3♠.

Transfer Then New Suit at the Three Level

Since opener will be forced to reply at a higher level, a new suit at the three level requires 13+ points and is forcing to game.

WEST	EAST	EAST
1NT	2♥	♠ Q J 5 4 2
2♠	3♥	♥ K J 8 7
		♦ 4
		♣ A K 6

This sequence shows a responding hand of at least 5-4 shape and at least game points. It is game forcing. Now that opener has a good picture of responder's hand he will choose game in hearts, spades or no trumps.

Notice that if our second suit is *lower* ranking than our first suit we will need to bid our second suit at the three level. Responder should only introduce a minor suit if he has some interest in playing in that suit (e.g. a 5 card minor or interest in slam).

What if we only have invitational points?

1. If the first suit is a major and the second suit is a minor just show the major suit and rebid 2NT or 3NT with 5 of the major.
2. If the first suit is spades and the second suit is hearts we can use Stayman followed by an invitational bid. For example:

WEST	EAST	EAST
1NT	2♣	♠ A J 9 4 2
2♦	3♠	♥ K J 8 7
		♦ 4
		♣ Q 10 6

This sequence shows a responding hand with 5 spades, 4 hearts and invitational values. It is therefore non-forcing. *With 4 hearts and 4 spades East would have bid 2♣ (Stayman) and after West's 2♦ denial of a 4 card major East would rebid 2NT (invitational).*
With 5 spades and no 4 hearts East would have bid 2♦ (transfer to spades) and then bid 3♠.
 Responder would of course raise to game if opener had shown a major suit in response to Stayman – a fit is guaranteed so East has now three shortage points.

Some Examples of Showing a Two Suited Hand after 1NT- 2♦ -2♥

Bid	Points	Shape	Further Info
1NT 2♦ 2♥ 2♠	11+	5+card ♥ suit and a 4+ card ♠ suit	Forcing for 1 round. Opener will choose the best contract opposite an invitational hand.
1NT 2♦ 2♥ 3♠	13+	5+card ♥ suit and a 5+ card ♣ suit	Forcing to game. Responder might have only 4 clubs if he is interested in slam.