

Minor Suit Transfer

If you play transfers, what do you bid after a 1NT opening when you want to play in a minor ? Obviously you can't bid 2♣ or 2♦, since these bids would be interpreted as "Stayman", or "Transfer to Hearts".

If playing transfers, you bid 2♥ if you have a weak hand with a long spade suit and would rather play in 2♠ than 1NT. This leaves a 2♠ bid as a weak takeout unnecessary. An alternative use for the 2♠ response can be used to escape into a minor suit (since 2♣ and 2♦ are not available as weak takeout bids). A response of 2♠ to partner's 1NT can be used to say "partner, I have a weak hand with a long minor suit, please bid 3♣". When partner bids 3♣, you pass with a long club suit and bid 3♦ with a long diamond suit, which partner passes.

Note that because you are playing the contract at the three level, your minor suit should be at least SIX CARDS, which guarantees an eight card fit.

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| <p>♠ 5 ♥ 7 3 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ A J 10 8 5 4 2</p> | <p>If partner opens 1NT, bid 2♠ which tells partner you have a weak hand with either a long club or diamond suit. Partner responds 3♣, and you pass. 3♣ is likely to be more successful than 1NT as the club suit might be useless in a NT contract if partner cannot setup the suit.</p> |
| <p>♠ J 5 4 ♥ J 9 ♦ K 10 8 6 5 2 ♣ 8 5</p> | <p>Respond 2♠, showing a weak hand with a long minor. After partner bids 3♣ you bid 3♦ (your suit) which partner passes. Once again, the diamond suit will take tricks in a diamond contract but may take no tricks in a NT contract if partner cannot set up the suit.</p> |