

Transfers

Transfers are the way of showing a 5+ major suit or a 6+ minor suit after a 1NT opening (Stayman by comparison, asks for a 4-card major). The advantages of transfers are:

- the NT hand is declarer when responder is weak
- responder can describe their hand more accurately
- the partnership can play a weak major or minor suit contract

Response options to 1NT:

2♣	Stayman - asks for a 4-card major (Improvers' Lesson 1)
2♦	Transfer to hearts - shows 5+hearts - any point count
2♥	Transfer to spades - shows 5+spades - any point count
2♠	Relay to 3♣ – transfer to a 6+ card minor and 0-7 HCP
2NT	11-12 HCP, no 4+ card major

NB:

- Transfers do not apply when the opponents double or bid a suit
- Opener must accept the transfer by bidding the implied suit

Examples of transfers

1NT – 2♦
2♥ – ?

1NT – 2♠
3♣ – ?

Responder's subsequent action

After a major Transfer (2♦ or 2♥):

Pass	Weak hand
2NT	Invitational (11-12) with exactly 5 of transferred major
3-level bid of the transferred major	Invitational (10-11) with 6+ of that major
2 nd suit	Shows at least 5/4 and forcing 1 round
3NT	Enough for game with exactly 5 of the transferred major
4-level bid of the transferred major	Enough for game with 6+ of that major

After a minor transfer (2♠):

Responder passes opener's 3♣ with a weak 6+ card club suit

Responder converts opener's 3♣ to 3♦ with a weak 6+ card diamond suit

Note; With 8 -11 HCP and a long minor it is usually better to pass and play in 1NT rather than in 3♣ or 3♦

With 12+ HCP and a long minor, bid 3NT.

Opener's subsequent action

After 3♣ or 3♦ invitational:

Pass minimum hand and no honour in the minor.

3NT maximum hand and good support in the minor or holds the missing honour in the minor.

Example hands and bidding

A) Responder with a minimum hand				
	West	East	Bidding	
1.	♠ AQ8 ♥ 1063 ♦ AQ74 ♣ 863	♠ 643 ♥ A97542 ♦ J82 ♣ 7	West 1NT 2♥	East 2♦ pass
2.	♠ AQ8 ♥ 1063 ♦ AQ7 ♣ 8643	♠ 643 ♥ 7 ♦ K96542 ♣ J72	West 1NT 3♣ pass	East 2♠ 3♦

B) Responder with an invitational hand				
	West	East	Bidding	
3.	♠ AK8 ♥ 106 ♦ AQ74 ♣ 8632	♠ 643 ♥ AK754 ♦ 852 ♣ A9	West 1NT 2♥ pass	East 2♦ 2NT
4.	♠ AK8 ♥ 106 ♦ AQ74 ♣ 8632	♠ 64 ♥ AK7543 ♦ 852 ♣ K9	West 1NT 2♥ pass	East 2♦ 3♥
5.	♠ AQ84 ♥ Q8 ♦ AQ74 ♣ 863	♠ K762 ♥ KJ964 ♦ KJ2 ♣ 4	West 1NT 2♥ 4♠	East 2♦ 2♠ pass

C) Responder with Game Forcing hand

6.	West	East	Bidding	
	♠ AK8	♠ 643	West	East
	♥ 106	♥ AK754	1NT	2♦
	♦ AQ74	♦ K52	2♥	3NT
	♣ 8632	♣ A9	pass	

7.	West	East	Bidding	
	♠ AK82	♠ 643	West	East
	♥ 1063	♥ AK754	1NT	2♦
	♦ AQ74	♦ K52	2♥	3NT
	♣ 86	♣ A9	4♥	pass

8.	West	East	Bidding	
	♠ AK8	♠ 64	West	East
	♥ 106	♥ AK7543	1NT	2♦
	♦ AQ74	♦ K52	2♥	4♥
	♣ 8632	♣ K9	pass	