

## 4-WAY (MINOR SUIT) TRANSFERS OVER PARTNER'S 1NT OPENING

Transfers over Partner's opening bid of 1NT are, today, almost universal. Some partnerships use 2-Way Transfers (for the Majors only); some use 3-Way Transfers, and some utilize 4-Way Transfers. The following 4-Way Transfer method incorporates the best combinations of the several ways 4-Way Transfers can be played.

Minor Suit Transfers: Transferring to the either Minor suit (Clubs or Diamonds) piggy-backs similarly on top of the two Major suit transfers one customarily uses. Such transfers, however, customarily evidence a 6-card Minor suit holding as opposed to at least 5 cards when a Major suit Transfer is used. The reason is that when you are weak and wish to play in 3C or 3D, you require six cards (not five) in the suit in order to make a better contract than 1-NT. Indeed, there is no point in showing a five-card Minor suit holding when Responder's shape is something like (3-2-3-5) - you're going to play in No Trump anyhow.

1NT "2S" (Alertable) (Shows at least 6-Clubs)

1NT "2NT" (Alertable) (Shows at least 6-Diamonds)

Opener's Response to Minor Suit Transfers: Notice that Minor suit Transfers, used as stated herein, are two levels below the indicated suit. Opener, therefore, has two possible rebids that do not go past the intended suit of the Responder. The Responder may wish to know how strong Opener's holding is in the directed suit in cases where a "Gambling 3NT" holding is held by the Responder. If the Opener holds a good fit in Responder's suit (at least Q-X-X), Opener makes a "Super Acceptance" or "Break From the Transfer" by bidding the in-between bid ("2NT" over "2S" and "3C" over "2NT"). On all other hands Opener will accept (or complete) the transfer and bid 3 of Responder's suit. Thus, when Opener replies with a bid in Responder's suit, this is known as "accepting the transfer"; whereas if Opener bids the in-between suit, Opener is making a "super-acceptance" in case game be feasible.

(1) <u>Opener's Hand</u>	<u>Opener's Bids</u>	<u>Responder's Bid</u>
AKX	1NT	"2S"
KQXX	"3C" (Completing the Transfer)	
KXX		
XXX	1NT	"2NT"
"3C" (Breaks the Transfer)		

(2) <u>Responder's Hand</u>	<u>Responder's Bids</u>	<u>Opener's Bid</u>
XX		1NT
XX	"2S" (Transfer to Clubs)	3C
KXX	Pass	
QXXXXX		

(3) <u>Responder's Hand</u>	<u>Responder's Bids</u>	<u>Opener's Bid</u>
XX		1NT
XX	"2NT" (Transfer to Diamonds)	"3C" (Break)
AQXXXX	3NT (Gambling Game Attempt)	
XXX		

Responder's Invitational NT: Since the "2NT" bid by Responder is used to denote a transfer to Diamonds, it is no longer available when Responder, holding 8-9+ HCP's wishes to invite Opener to 3NT. In such instances, therefore, Responder must bid a Stayman "2C" and then rebid an invitational 2NT notwithstanding the absence of a 4-card Major suit holding. A sequence such as 1NT-"2C"-2S-2NT no longer guarantees that Responder holds a 4-card Heart suit. Responder's "2C" bid is thus Alertable in that it may, or may not, evidence one or more 4-card Major suit holding(s).

(4) <u>Responder's Hand</u>	<u>Responder's Bids</u>	<u>Opener's Bid</u>
QXXX		1NT
KX	"2C"	"2D"
AXXX	2NT (Invitational)	
XXX		

(Added by Linda)

However, in this sequence: 1NT-“2C”-2H, the 2C bidder must bid 2S to show the 4-card spade suit, as 2NT would deny a 4-card spade suit. Thus, if playing 4-way transfers, NT opener must respond hearts before spades if holding both 4-card majors.

Responder’s Sign-Off in a Minor: One of the most common purposes for a Minor suit Transfer is to sign off in a long suit when the Responder wishes to place the contract in what he/she believes is a more likely makeable contract than Opener’s 1NT.

(5)	<u>Responder’s Hand</u>	<u>Responder’s Bids</u>	<u>Opener’s Bid</u>
	XX		1NT
	KXX	“2NT”	“3C”
	JXXXXX	3D (Sign-off - No Interest in Game)	
	XXX	(Not-with-Standing Opener’s Super Acceptance)	
	1NT		
	“2NT”	3D	
	Pass		

Responder’s Evidence of a Second Suit: Suppose Opener opens 1NT and the Responder holds game values and a 6-4 shape including a 6-card Minor and 4 cards in a Major suit. Responder must, in these instances, show the Minor with a transfer response, and then bid his/her 4-card suit at the 3-Level.

(6)	<u>Responder’s Hand</u>	<u>Responder’s Bids</u>	<u>Opener’s Bid</u>
	J		1NT
	AQXX	“2S”	“3C”
	XX	3H (Showing 6-4 Shape)	
	KQXXXX		

Here, the Responder bids “2S” showing long Clubs. Whether or not Opener breaks the transfer, Responder will continue with a bid at the 3-Level of his/her 4-card Major showing a second suit and game values. Opener can either bid 4H, 5C, or 3NT to deny a fit anywhere. Remember that with a 5-card Major and a 4-card Major, Responder must begin with Stayman, never with a Jacoby Transfer.

*This information was revised to fit the way this bid is used in Richmond from the information at [http://www.fourseasonsbridge.com/harold/advbridge\\_117.htm](http://www.fourseasonsbridge.com/harold/advbridge_117.htm)*