

Kokish Relay

Open 3NT with a big hand? – don't be silly.

What is 3NT in the sequence 2♣ - 2♦ - 3NT? Answer – a very silly bid!

You hold one of these hands and partner opens 3NT (25+). Or else it goes 2♣ - 2♦ - 3NT to show 25+.

Hand A	Hand B	Should you pass or bid Stayman with Hand A?
♠ 8632	♠ 86532	Should you pass or transfer with Hand B?
♥ 74	♥ 4	Are transfers even on after this bidding
♦ J872	♦ J872	sequence?
♣ 843	♣ 843	

Traditionally 3NT here (and/or an opening of 3NT) are used to show very big balanced hands, 25+ points. But there is absolutely no doubt that this is very silly as it inhibits the use of transfers/Stayman/ by a very weak responder. What is the solution? Trumpet please!!!

The Kokish relay: -

After a strong 2♣ and 2♦ response (waiting)

then 2♥ is either natural with a ♥ suit or 25+ balanced.

Responder then always bids 2♠ (the Kokish relay which says nothing at all) and – Opener then defines his hand:

2NT = 25+ balanced

Any other bid = strong ♥ opener.

Suppose the opener rebid is 2NT showing the balanced 25 to 27 hand. Now responder can use normal methods (puppet, transfers, stayman) and we save a whole level of bidding room by not jumping to 3NT.

On the other hand opener will rebid something other than two no trumps after the two spade bid by partner to show a big hand with hearts.

In class I mentioned that with hearts you would now bid three hearts after the two spade relay.

We can actually flesh out the Kokish Relay to show different types of big heart hands also. As noted earlier, any response other than two no trump to the opener shows a big hand with hearts. Here are some additional bids that you should add to the Kokish relay.

After 2clubs - 2 diamonds - 2 hearts - 2 spades (the forced relay):

two no trump - 25-27 points balanced

three hearts - Big hand six plus hearts

three clubs - 4 plus clubs and 5 plus hearts

three diamonds - 4 plus diamonds and five plus hearts

Please notice what these last two bids do for you. Sometimes we have two suited hands that are big. The three club and three diamond bid allow us to show these hands when we are using the Kokish Relay.

Please send any questions you might have to me. Have a great week! I love you guys!

Richard