

# Advanced NT Bids—Smolen

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS	
1NT	
15 to 17	3 ♣ puppet
14 to 17	3 ♦ 5-5 invitational
5-card Major common	3 ♥ singleton
System on over x, 2c	3 ♠ singleton
2 ♣ Stayman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Puppet <input type="checkbox"/>	
2 ♦ Transfer to ♥ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 ♦, 4 ♥ Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forcing Stayman <input type="checkbox"/>	Smolen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 ♥ Transfer to ♠ <input type="checkbox"/>	Lebensohl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (fast denies)
2 ♠ --> 3C	Neg. Double <input type="checkbox"/>
2NT --3D	Other: Advanced Jac
	Pre-accept
	2NT 20 to 21
	Puppet Stayman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Transfer Responses:
	Jacoby <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Texas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	3 ♣ minors-inv.
	3NT _____ to _____
	gambling
	Conventional NT Openings

Under the conditions set forth in the partnership agreement, both the **Stayman** convention and the **Jacoby Transfer** convention are used after partner has opened No Trump. If the responder realizes that he has **enough points for game**, but has a **5-4 distribution in both Major suits**, he will use the Stayman convention.

But, if the response by the No Trump bidder is 2 Diamonds, then the responder will jump in his 5-card suit, which is game-forcing. By doing so, the responder will very often become the declarer. This is known as the **Smolen Transfer** and was devised by Mr. Michael Smolen.

## Example:

Opener	Responder
♠ A74	♠ K9865
♥ A76	♥ K984
♦ Q843	♦ K7
♣ AK8	♣ QJ
1 NT	2 ♣

The responder will use the Stayman convention and bid **2 Clubs**.

The No Trump bidder has no 4-card Major suit and bids **2 Diamonds**.

If **NOT** using the Smolen Transfer, the responder would jump in his 5-card Major suit, and bid **3 Spades**, which is game-forcing for the No Trump bidder, who bids **4 Spades**.

The responder ends up as the declarer, and the normally concealed strength goes down as the dummy for the opponents to see, possibly opening up an immediate line of defense communication. This has proven to be undesirable.

This is where the Smolen Transfer can be very helpful. Using this treatment, the No Trump bidder will always be the declarer, even after a negative 2 Diamond response to the Stayman bid.

After a negative 2 Diamond response by the No Trump bidder, the responder will **jump to three of a Major suit in which he holds four cards**. The No Trump bidder then knows that the responder holds at least five or more cards in the other Major suit.

In the above example, the bidding would go as follows:

**Opener**  
1 NT  
**Responder**  
2 ♣      ♠ K9865  
             ♥ K984  
             ♦ K7  
             ♣ QJ

**Opener**  
2 ♦  
**Responder**  
3 ♥      **showing 4 Hearts and showing 5 Spades**

If the No Trump bidder has 3-card support in Spades, he would bid **4 Spades**. If the No Trump bidder has only 2-card support in Spades, he would set the contract at **3 No Trump**. The No Trump bidder would then become the declarer and the weaker hand would go down as the dummy.

However, if the responder actually holds six plus cards in Spades, and the No Trump bidder opts for 3 No Trump as the contract, then the responder would bid **FOUR OF THE SUIT BELOW HIS LONG MAJOR**, forcing the No Trump bidder to bid **FOUR OF THE SUIT OF THE RESPONDER**.

### Not Enough Points for Game

If playing Smolen, you can safely bid a hand with less than game values (even less than 8 points) that has 5-4 in the majors, also.

Your partner opens 1NT, and you have this hand:

♠ K9865  
♥ K984  
♦ 87  
♣ J4

You now bid 2C Stayman. You will pass whichever major your partner bids. However, if your partner bids 2D, you bid 2S, which shows 5 spades, 4 hearts, and no interest in game. Your partner should pass.

Most of the information above was taken from <http://www.bridgeguys.com/Conventions/Smolen.html>.