

Jacoby Transfers

What are they?

After a 1NT bid, regardless if you are a passed hand, bid 2♦ and 2♥ are transfers to the next higher suit.

1NT-2♦; 2♥

P-1NT; 2♦-2♥

1NT-2♥; 2♠

P-1NT; 2♥-2♠

Why use them?

- Strong hand is not on the table
- Leads go to the strong hand
- more bidding space for responder to describe their hand

By transferring you give the responder an extra chance to make another bid. This can often help one determine the best level and denomination to play in.

What does opener do?

Opener is required to complete the transfer. By bidding the next higher suit. Remember you have already defined your hand nicely by opening 1NT. If responder wants your opinion, they will ask.

Responders Second Bid after the Transfer is Complete

1NT – 2♦ (transfer); 2♥

- **Pass** = Weak hand (0-7 pts.).
- **2NT** = Invitational to 4♥ *or* 3NT, 5 cards in suit, and balance-ish hand.
- **3NT** = Game values for 4♥ *or* 3NT, usually 5 cards in suit.
- **3♥** = Invitational to 4♥, 6 or more cards in suit.
- **4♥** = Game values, 6 or more cards in your suit. (To be discussed more another day)
- **New suit** = Forcing to game, showing a second suit. Many books say 5-card second suit, but I think with 5-4-3-1 or 5-4-2-2 you hand can be very hard to describe otherwise.

Some examples

A	B	C
JT9876	KJT98	QJT98
6	65	65
K98	KJ8	KJ6
865	865	KJ6

A: you will transfer and pass. 1NT-2♥; 2♠

B: you would like partner to bid on with a maximum, and play 2S or 3S with a minimum. 1NT-2♥; 2♠-2NT; ??? partner to decide what to do based on their fit and strength

C: you would like to be in game, but don't know if 4S or 3NT is better. 1NT-2♥; 2♠-3NT; ??? partner to decide what to do based on their fit and strength

What Does 2♠ Mean?

2♠ – because of Jacoby Transfer I don't need this bid to show spades. Most people decided to use it to show a weak hand in a minor with at least 6 cards, less then invitational values. 2S forces the 1NT bidder to bid 3C, which can be pass or corrected to 3D. The 1NT opener should not bid again.

Our current 1NT response structure:

1NT – 15-17

- 2♣ - Stayman
- 2♦ - Jacoby transfer
- 2♥ - Jacoby transfer
- 2♠ - Transfer to 3♣ - pass or correct
- 2NT – invitational with no four card major
- 3♣ - invitational with 6 or more clubs
- 3♦ - invitational with 6 or more diamonds
- 3♥ - no meaning, partnership to define
- 3♠ - no meaning, partnership to define
- 3NT – to play
- 4♣ – Gerber covered in a few weeks ☺

Advanced Stuff

Interference

I would play Jacoby Transfers and Stayman on over interference of a double (X) or 2C bids. So, 1NT-(X)-2♦ is still a transfer to hearts. 1NT-(2♣)-2♥ is still a transfer to spades. While 1NT-(2♦)-2♥ is not a transfer...

2NT and 3NT

I find it easy to remember to have the same structure over 2NT as 1NT. So I play 3♦ and 3♥ as transfer also. Even over 3NT, I play 4♦ and 4♥ as transfers.

Problems

Partner opens 1NT and you have the following hands. If you transfer, what's your next bid?

1	2	3	4	5
Kxxxx	KJTxx	AQxxx	Jxxxx	QJ9xxxx
Xx	Kxx	KJx	Jxxx	xx
9xxx	JTx	Tx	Jxxx	Ax
Xx	xx	Txx	----	Qx

Solutions

1. After 1NT one should bid 2H as a transfer to spades, and then pass.

Suggested auction : 1NT-2H; 2S

2. My hand evaluation, is 8 HCP, a five card suit and two tens, both with J in the same suit. I like my hand. I plan on inviting. But I can do this through a transfer to show my five-card suit and my point range. I will bid 2NT after the transfer.

Suggested auction: 1NT-2H; 2S-2NT

3. I have ten point and a five-card suit. I suspect opposite most 15-17 hands, we should be in game. But which one? Spades or 3NT? I don't know, we should let partner decide. I will transfer and then bid 3NT.

Suggested auction: 1NT-2H; 2S- 3NT

4. Well, I don't know why I am giving you this hand, since it is very hard call on what to do. One solution is to transfer to spades, and obviously pass. However, there is another bid that might land you in the right spot, or it might not. One could try bidding stayman. This is often done on hands with 5-4 in the majors, to see if there is a 4-4 fit. But my plan is even a little more tricky then that. I plan on passing when partner bid 2D denying a 4 card major, hoping that if partner doesn't have the majors, partner will have diamonds. Both, options are reasonable. For me it would depend on who well I know partner, how my game was going and al sorts of things. Transferring to spades is the safe approach.

5. Transfer and then bid game. While I don't have too much HCP strength, my shape makes up for it.

Suggested auction; 1NT-2H; 2S-4S.