

Four Way Transfers over 1NT



Improve Your Bidding With More Agreements

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Most players use one of two methods responding to a strong 1N. We will explore a complete treatment using 2♦, 2♥, 2♠ and 2N as transfers to show a variety of hand shapes and strengths. This method's basic structure is similar to Walsh Transfers.

2♠ Range Transfer

Alert as "Range ask or clubs." This bid includes three hand types. Opener bids 2N with a minimum notrump and 3♣ with a maximum. Responder with a weak hand and 6 or more clubs, passes or bids 3♣ over 2N. The second hand type is an invitational hand without a 4 card major; responder passes 2N, continues with 3N or bids 3♣ (Puppet Stayman). Over 3♣ opener shows a 5 card major or bids 3N. When opener shows a maximum with 3♣, 3♦ is now Puppet Stayman. The last hand type is a game forcing hand with at least 5-5 in the minors shown by responding in a short (0-1) major suit or 3N with Kx or A in both majors).

1. Opener:

♠AJxx ♥KQxx ♦Qx ♣QJx

Responder:

♠xxx ♥J10x ♦KJx ♣Axxx

1N-2♠;2N

2. ♠Axxx ♥KQxx ♦Kx ♣Axx

♠xxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣KQxxxx

1N-2♠;3♣

3. ♠KJx ♥AQ10xx ♦xx ♣AQx

♠xx ♥Jxx ♦AJxx ♣Kxxx

1N-2♠;3♣-3♦; 3♥-4♥

4. ♠xxx ♥KQxx ♦AQx ♣Axx

♠A ♥xx ♦Kxxxx ♣Kxxxx

1N-2♠;2N-3♠;5♦

2♥ Transfer

Announce "Transfer." The transfer to spades with five or more can be weak (pass 2♠), invitational (bid 2N, 3♥ with 5 spades and 4 hearts, 3♠ with six), game forcing (3♣, 3♦, 3N) or slam invitational (4♣, 4♦, 4♥, 4♠). Over 3♣, 3♦, opener can bid game, show a maximum and 3 spades with 3♠, bid a three level stopper for 3N, or cue-bid planning to investigate game or slam in the minor suit. Transferring and rebidding 4♣ invites slam as an immediate 4♥ transfer over 1N forces 4♠. Four level cue-bids show the lowest Ace, asking opener to bid Aces up the line or sign off in 4♠.

With a maximum and 4/5 spades, opener super-accepts with several bids. With working doubletons (xx, Ax, Kx, AQ, etc.) bid 2N (heart doubleton), 3♣ or 3♦; responder re-transfers with 3♥. With other super-accepts bid 3♠.

1. ♠Kx ♥AQxx ♦Kxx ♣KJxx

♠Qxxxx ♥Kxxx ♦Axx ♣x

- 1N-2♥;2♠-3♥;4♥
- ♠Ax ♥xxxx ♦AKxx ♣AJx
♠KJxxx ♥x ♦Jxx ♣KQxx
1N-2♥;2♠-3♣;3♦-4♣;4♠
 - ♠KQxx ♥AQxx ♦xx ♣AQx
♠Axxxx ♥Jxx ♦xx ♣xxx
1N-2♥;3♦-3♥; 3♠
 - ♠AQx ♥AQxx ♦Qxx ♣Jxx
♠KJxxx ♥Kx ♦AKxxx ♣x
1N-2♥;2♠-4♦;4♥-4N;
5♠(2 Aces + Q)-6♠

2N Transfer

Alert as “Transfer to diamonds or both minors game forcing.” This initially shows a weak to invitational hand with 6 diamonds. Opener either accepts the transfer with 3♦ or bids 3♣ with Qxx or better diamonds and a hand wanting to accept 3N opposite an invitation. Responder passes, signs off at 3♦, bids 3N, or shows a game forcing 5-5 minor hand with better diamonds by cue-bidding a major singleton.

- ♠AJxx ♥Axx ♦Qxx ♣KQx
♠x ♥x ♦AJxxxx ♣Axxxx
1N-2N;3♣-3♥;3♠-4♥;
4N-5♥(2 Aces);6♦
- ♠AQxx ♥KQxx ♦xx ♣Axx
♠Jxx ♥x ♦KQxxxx ♣Kxx
1N-2N;3♦
- ♠KJxx ♥AQx ♦Kxx ♣QJx
♠xx ♥xxx ♦AJxxxx ♣Ax
1N-2N;3♣-3N

2♦ Transfer

You must say “Alert” when partner makes this bid as it may not contain a heart suit. Typically, this is a transfer to hearts with five or more. All of the auctions except one follow the same structure as with 1N-2♥. An immediate 4♦ over 1N transfers to 4♥. With a maximum and 4/5 hearts, opener super-accepts only with 2♠. Responder re-transfers with 2N, while any other bid denies hearts and is as described next.

You must alert the responder’s rebid of 2♠ (1N-2♦;2♥-2♠) as “Invites with 5-5 minors or invites slam with a 6 card minor.” Opener is forced to bid 2N; responder shows 5-5 minors with 3♣; a broken 6 card minor suit (AJ, KJ or QJ) with 3♦ (diamonds) or 3♥ (clubs); a good 6 card minor suit (AK, AQ or KQ) with 3♠ (diamonds) or 3N (clubs); or solid suit with four of the minor.

- ♠AJxx ♥Axx ♦Qx ♣KQxx
♠x ♥KQJxxx ♦KJx ♣Axx
1N-2♦;2♥-4♥(NF RKC);
5♣(2 Aces no Q)-5♦;6♣-6♥
- ♠KQxx ♥AJ10 ♦QJx ♣Axx
♠x ♥xx ♦Kxxxx ♣KQxxx
1N-2♦;2♥-2♠;3♣-3N
- ♠KQx ♥QJxx ♦KJxx ♣Kx
♠Axx ♥x ♦AQxxxx ♣Axx
1N-2♦;2♥-2♠;3♦-3♠ (denies A or K
in hearts);4♣-4♥(1 heart);4♠-5♠;6♦

Stayman

Now your Stayman auctions will always promise at least one 4 card major. Invite with 5 hearts and 4 spades by bidding 1N-2♣;2♦-2♠, since 1N-2♣;2♦-2N invites with 4 spades. I suggest using Smolen (1N-2♣;2♦-3♥/3♠ with 4-5 majors game forcing) and Garbage Stayman (1N-2♣;2♦-2♥) to show a weak hand with 4-4 majors.

If you are new to this method, start without using the super-accept and 1N-2♦;2♥-2♠ auctions. You can add them later. "