

Conventions Course – Lesson One

TRANSFERS

Transfers are very popular over an OPENING bid of 1NT (or 2NT) for two reasons:

- 1 Over a 1NT opening, the use of Transfers opens up a lot of new bidding space
- 2 Most often, the stronger hand will play the contract and the weak hand will be on the table (dummy)

What is a “Transfer”?

A Transfer is a bid of 2♦ over an opening 1NT bid showing 5+ hearts (the suit above) and 0 - 20+ points

OR a bid of 2♥ over an opening 1NT bid, showing 5+ spades (the suit above) and again 0 - 20+ points

Playing Transfers, whenever you have 5+ hearts or 5+ spades and partner opens 1NT (or 2NT) then you MUST respond either 2♦ or 2♥ - Transfer bids.

Like any Conventional bid in Bridge it is IMPERATIVE that you agree with your partner before the session of Bridge starts that you are playing “Transfers” as they are highly artificial (you are bidding a suit you haven’t got!). Also, the 1 NT Opener (never the Transferer) should announce to the opposition “Showing Hearts”, if the bidding had gone 1NT – 2♦ say.

Weak with 5+ hearts (0 – 10 points)

If partner opens 1NT and you have 5+ hearts and 0 – 10 points, then make a Transfer bid of 2♦ and pass partner’s response. By bidding a 2♦ Transfer you are demanding that the 1NT opener bids 2♥ and they should ALWAYS do so! Eg:

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Opener | Responder | Opener | Responder |
| ♠ AK84 | ♠ 63 | ♠ Q762 | ♠ 5 |
| ♥ Q63 | ♥ KJ872 | ♥ Q8 | ♥ J97642 |
| ♦ 83 | ♦ 952 | ♦ AKQ4 | ♦ 853 |
| ♣ AJ84 | ♣ 973 | ♣ 975 | ♣ 842 |
| 1NT | 2♦* Transfer | 1NT | 2♦* Transfer |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |

In both examples above responder’s 2♦ bid was a Transfer (which Opener announced!). This 2♦ bid demanded opener to bid 2♥. Responder then passed. This is the “Weak Take Out”.

Weak with 5+ spades (0 – 10 points)

If partner opens 1NT and you have 5+ spades and 0 – 10 points, then make a Transfer bid of 2♥ and pass partner’s response. Eg:

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|--------------|
| Opener | Responder | Opener | Responder |
| ♠ K8 | ♠ AJ973 | 1NT | 2♥* Transfer |
| ♥ 632 | ♥ 97 | 2♠ | Pass |
| ♦ AQ42 | ♦ KJ76 | | |
| ♣ QJ84 | ♣ 52 | | |

Invitational with a 5 Card Major (11/12 points)

With 11 or 12 points and a 5 card Major, use a Transfer bid and then responder rebids 2NT. The 1NT Opener will then either Pass, bid 3NT, bid 3 or 4 ♥s/♠s, depending on points and number of ♥s/♠s held. Eg:

| | | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Opener | Responder | Opener | Responder |
| ♠ AK84 | ♠ J3 | ♠ QJ6 | ♠ AK985 |
| ♥ Q63 | ♥ KJ872 | ♥ Q2 | ♥ 874 |
| ♦ 83 | ♦ AQ2 | ♦ KQ84 | ♦ A32 |
| ♣ AJ104 | ♣ 973 | ♣ Q732 | ♣ 86 |
| 1NT | 2♦* Transfer | 1NT | 2♥* Transfer |
| 2♥ | 2NT | 2♠ | 2NT |
| 4♥ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |

Strong with a 5 Card Major (13+ points)

Opposite a 1NT opener, respond with a Transfer and then rebid 3NT. The 1NT opener will either pass or bid 4 of the major with 3+ card support.

Strong with a 6+ Card Major (11+ points)

Opposite a 1NT opener, respond with a Transfer and then rebid 4♥ or 4♠ (with only 11 points, invite game with 3♥ or 3♠, having Transferred first).

Showing a 5 and 4+ shape with Transfers

Opposite a 1NT opener you can show a 5 and 4+ hand by first transferring into your 5+ card major and then bidding your 4+ card suit at the 3 level. This would be forcing to game so you would need to have at least 12+ points

Transfers over an Opening 2NT

These work in exactly the same way as if partner had opened 1NT – over a 2NT opener, bid 3♦ Transfer to show 5+ hearts and 3♥ to show 5+ spades. Again, Transfer with 0+ points. The added bonus is that you CAN do a weak take out with a 5+ card major over a 2NT opener! Eg

| | | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Opener | Responder | Opener | Responder |
| ♠ AK84 | ♠ 9 | ♠ QJ6 | ♠ AK985 |
| ♥ Q6 | ♥ J87532 | ♥ K4 | ♥ 87 |
| ♦ KQ2 | ♦ 954 | ♦ A984 | ♦ J532 |
| ♣ AQ104 | ♣ 863 | ♣ AKQJ | ♣ 86 |
| 2NT | 3♦* Transfer | 2NT | 3♥* Transfer |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3♠ | 3NT |
| | | 4♠ | Pass |

Appendix

- 1 Playing Transfers, responder can no longer do a Weak Take Out over 1NT into diamonds – pass instead.
- 2 If an opponent bids or Doubles, then ALL Transfers are OFF and bids are natural.
- 3 To Transfer you **MUST** have a 5+ card major (with 4 card majors use Stayman).
- 4 Play 2♠ as a Transfer to 3C to show a 6+ card minor and 0 – 10 points.