

Jacoby Transfers

When NT responder has length (5+) in a major suit:

Responder bids the suit immediately below the major. 2D shows a heart suit, 2H shows a spade suit. This is a demand bid telling opener to bid the major, the suit just above the one you bid.

For example: Partner opens 1NT and you hold:

Axx-QJxxx-xx-Jxx (Bid **2D**, transferring to Hearts)

AKxxx-Axx-xx-xxx (Bid **2H**, transferring to Spades)

Responder's rebids after Jacoby Transfer:

For example, the bidding has gone 1NT by partner -- 2D (transfer) by you -- 2H by partner. Your next bid shows the strength and shape of your hand:

Pass = Weak hand (0-7 pts.) with 5 or more cards in your suit e.g., x-Kxxxx-xxx-xxxx

2NT = Invitational to 4H or 3NT, exactly 5 cards in your suit (8-9pts.) e.g., xxx-QJxxx-Qxx-Kx

3NT = Game values for 4H or 3NT, exactly 5 cards in your suit (10+ pts.) e.g., KQx-Axxxx-QJx-xx

3H = Invitational to 4H, 6 or more cards in your suit (8-9 pts.) e.g., Jx-KJxxxx-xxx-Kx

4H= Game values, 6 or more cards in your suit (10+ pts.) e.g., AK-Qxxxx-xxx-Kx

New suit at the three-level = Forcing to game, showing a second suit (10+ pts.) e.g., void-KQJxx-xxx-AQxxx, bid 3C.

NT Opener's Rebids

If responder transfers and then rebids notrump or a new suit, opener must decide whether to play in notrump or in partner's suit. Always choose partner's major if you have 3+ card support. If partner's rebid was invitational, you must also show your strength by choosing the right level. For example, the bidding has gone **1NT-2D-2H-2NT** (invitational), you should:

Pass with a minimum opening (15 pts.) and 2-card support for partner's suit, e.g., KQxx-Kx-AQJx-xxx

Bid 3H with a minimum opener (15 pts.) and 3-card support. e.g., AJx-Kxx-AQJx-xxx N.B., this is not an invitation for responder to bid 4H! NT opener has known partner has a 5-card suit with an invitational hand and has placed the contract accordingly.

Bid 3NT with a maximum opener (16-17 pts.) and 2-card support. e.g., AJx-KQ-AQJx-xxxx

Bid 4H with a maximum opener (16-17 pts.) and 3-card support. e.g., AJ-KQx-AQJx-xxxx

How NT Responder should bid with hands that are 5/4 in the majors:

If weak (7 pts. or less) e.g., Qxxxx-Kxxx-xx-xx. Transfer into the 5-card major and pass. 1NT-2H-2S-P.

If invitational (8-9 pts.) e.g., AJxxx-Kxxx-xx-xx. Bid 2C Stayman and then your 5-card major suit at the two-level if partner responds 2D. 1NT-2C-2D-2S. Because you did not use Jacoby Transfer, partner knows you have an invitational hand with 5 spades and 4 hearts.

If game forcing (10+pts.) e.g., AJxxx-KQxx-xx-xx. Bid 2C Stayman and then your 5-card major at the three level if partner responds 2D. 1NT-2C-2D-3S. Because you did not use Jacoby Transfer, partner knows you have a game forcing hand with 5 spades and 4 hearts.

How NT Responder should bid with hands that are 5/5 in the majors:

If weak (7 pts. or less) e.g., xxxxx-Qxxxx-x-xx. Transfer into your best major and pass. 1NT-2D-2H-P.

If invitational (8-9 pts.) e.g., Kxxxx-AJxxx-x-xx. Transfer into Hearts first and then rebid spades at the two-level, 1NT-2D-2H-2S.

If game forcing, (10 + pts.) e.g., AKxxx-Kxxxx-x-xx. Transfer into Spades first and then rebid Hearts at the three-level. 1NT-2H-2S-3H.