

“Stayman” and “Jacoby Transfer” Conventions

THE “STAYMAN” CONVENTION

Definition: - An artificial bid of “2C” over Partner’s opening bid of 1-NT, or alternatively, “3C” over Partner’s opening bid of 2-NT, are both asking the No-Trump Opener to bid a 4-card Major suit (Hearts or Spades), “*Up-the-Ladder*,” if one is present.

1. The “Stayman” Convention is *only used* when Responder holds a **4-Card Major suit** and is looking for a matching 4-Card Major suit, potentially held by the Opener.
2. If a “*Golden Fit*” or longer is present and Opener and Responder, together, have Game-values, or better, the hand, oft times, plays better in a final contract of 4 of the mutually-held Major suit, with the following two exceptions: (a) if the combined hands hold 29-32 HCP’s, and/or (b) if the Responder holds a **4-3-3-3** distribution. In the latter two instances, the hand plays better in a final contract of 3-NT, even if an 8-Card Major suit fit were to be found.
3. The artificial bids of “2C” over a 1-NT opening bid, or of “3C” over a 2-NT opening bid, both initiating the **Stayman Convention**, do *not* need to be “*alerted*” despite the artificial nature of Responder’s “*Club*” call. This is due to the fact that this Convention is universally accepted as the norm, and is played by most Partnerships.
4. The Opening Bidder, having opened 1-NT, responds “2D” over “2C” (or “3D” over “3C,” having opened 2-NT), in order to signify “*NO 4-CARD MAJOR*,” or alternatively 2H or 2S (3H or 3S), “*Up the Ladder*,” in order to signify a 4-Card, Heart or Spade holding, respectively, if one is present in Opener’s hand.

<u>OPENER</u>	<u>RESPONDER</u>	<u>MEANING OF RESPONDER’S LAST BID</u>
1-NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” 2-NT	This sequence shows invitational values, 9-10 HCP’s in Standard American (12-13 HCP’s in ACOL), with an unmatched, 4-card, Major suit holding. With minimum values, Opener can then either correct to the 3-level in the alternate Major, if 4-cards are held in the alternate Major suit, or simply “ <i>pass</i> ,” if not. Alternatively, Opener can proceed to Game if holding a maximum of 17 HCP’s in Standard American (S.A.) , (14 HCP’s in ACOL), in either the alternate Major suit or in No-Trump.
1-NT 2H/2S	“2C” 3H/3S	This sequence shows invitational support for Opener’s disclosed 4-card Major suit. It invites Opener to Game if Opener holds a maximum holding of 17 HCP’s in Standard American (S.A.) , (14 HCP’s in ACOL). Alternatively, Opener may simply “ <i>pass</i> ” with a minimum of 15-16 HCP’s in Standard American , (12-13 HCP’s in ACOL)
1-NT 2H/2S	“2C” 4H/4S	A sign-off acceptance of Opener’s Major suit, having found the sought-after Major suit “ Golden Fit ,” Game-values, but with no interest in Slam; i.e., holding 11 + HCP’s in Standard American (S.A.) , (14 + HCP’s in ACOL).
1-NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” 3-NT	A sign-off by Responder, unable to find a 4-4 fit in his/her sought-after Major suit. Opener can “ <i>correct</i> ” to 4 in the alternate Major suit, if holding 4-cards in the alternate Major suit, present but not yet shown, else “ <i>pass</i> .”
1-NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” “4C”	The “ Gerber ” Convention, asking for Opener’s number of Aces, when seeking the feasibility of a perceived, Slam-level contract in the Major suit originally sought by the Responder, or in No-Trump.

“JACOBY TRANSFER” BIDS

Definition: - “Jacoby Transfer” bids are used when the Responder holds a *5-Card or longer Major suit, or a 6-card or longer Minor suit*. When the Responder uses “Jacoby Transfer” bids, it results in the Player with the stronger hand, the opening No-Trump Bidder, to become the Declarer. It has the effect of (1) **concealing Opener’s hand to the Opponents, and (2) having the Opponent’s opening lead come *towards* any “tenace” that exists in Declarer’s hand, not *through* any existing one(s)** that might exist in Responder’s hand. The transfer sequence, desired by the Responder, is achieved by the Responder *bidding the suit immediately below the one actually desired*. Opener is obligated to accept the transfer by bidding the next higher suit, irrespective of the number *or* quality of the pieces in that suit that he/she holds. There are at least four (4) circumstances that exist where it is advantageous for the Responder to invoke a “Jacoby Transfer.”. Their main ones are as follows:

(1) **Transfer bids facilitate Responder’s task of describing two-suited hands.** Consider the following two scenarios both of which would clearly present problems, absent “Jacoby Transfers.”

(A) XX KQJXX AQXXX X (Add 3 HCP’s if playing (“ACOL”))
 I-NT “2D”
 2H 3D
 4H, 5D, or 3-NT

With, specifically, two five-card Major suit holdings and game-going values Responder can first transfer to Spades, and then jump to 4-Hearts seeking the best fit with what, at the very worst case scenario, must be at least a 5-3 fit in one of the Major suits, since the opening No-Trump bidder rarely holds two doubletons.

(B) KQXXX AQXXX XX X (Add 3 HCP’s if playing (“ACOL”))
 I-NT “2H”
 2S 4H
 PASS or 4S

(2) **Transfer bids also solve the problems created by many hands with invitational strength a 5-card or a 6-card Major suit holding.**

(A) AQX QXXXXX JX XX (Add 3 HCP’s if playing (“ACOL”)) Playing transfers, Responder, here, would bid “2D” and then raise Opener’s forced 2H response to 3H, inviting Opener to continue to 4H with a maximum holding of 17 HCP’s in S.A., else to “Pass” with a minimum of 15-16 HCP’s in S.A.

 1-NT “2D”
 2H 3H

(B) KQXXX QXX XX KXX (Add 3 HCP’s if playing (“ACOL”)) Playing transfers, Responder, here, can bid “2H”, and then invite to game in either No-Trump or the Major suit by re-bidding 2-NT over Partner’s transfer response, here, of 2S. Opener can then “Pass,” or correct to 3S, with minimum values, else 4S, or 3-NT, with maximum opening values.

 1-NT “2H”
 2S 2-NT

(3) **With a five-card Major suit holding and, Game-going values, Responder can utilize a combination of transfer bidding coupled with a 3-NT (“CHECK BACK”) in order to confirm whether the original No-Trump bidder had (two) or (three or four) cards in the forced Major suit of Responder’s choice.**

 QXX AQXXX KX XXX (Add 3 HCP’s if playing (“ACOL”))
 1-NT “2D”
 2H 3-NT
 PASS or 4H

(4) **With a 5-card Major suit, or a 6-card Minor suit holding, and a weak 0-8 HCP’s in S.A., (0-11 HCP’s in ACOL), Responder can consider transferring to 2H, 2S, 3C, or 3D, by bidding “2D,” “2H,” “2S,” or “3C” respectively, assuming playing 4-way “Jacoby Transfers.”**

	KQXXX XX XXX XXX		XX XXX XX KQXXXX
1-NT	“2H”	1-NT	“2S”
2S	PASS	3C	PASS