

A very short (and incomplete) explanation of Jacoby Transfers

“Transfer” otherwise known as Jacoby **Transfer**, is a Bridge **Convention** when you (as responder after your partner’s No Trump opening bid) request that opener bids the suit ranked the next suit higher than the suit just bid by you.

When To Use Jacoby Transfer Bids

The purpose of Jacoby Transfers in Bridge is to have the strong hand be declarer and therefore have their hand concealed from view. This bid is artificial and forcing...When and only when you and partner have agreed to play this transfer system. your partner must not pass the transfer bid no matter what their holding in the suit....Often they will hold only xx but it is still FORCING!!!

Jacoby Transfers occur after a Notrump opening bid from partner; partner 1NT or 2NT. When you hold 5 cards in a major suit...(regardless of your points...(**Transfers are “on”with 0 points...you should make a transfer bid.**) Since your partner’s 1NT opening promises balanced hand it will have at least two cards in your desired suit. This should be a much better contract than NT.

The only exception to this is when you hold a 5 card major AND a 4 card major...and at least 8 pts...then you start with STAYMAN.

After partner accepts the transfer...you will then show your points. You may pass with less than 8 pts... 0-7 is a weak hand...8-9 is “almost game: Invitational...10 pts means there is a game somewhere!!

When answering NT...**Your first bid shows your shape (Distribution).....Your 2nd bid shows your strength (Points)...**

Examples of Jacoby Transfer Bids

Partner opens 1NT:

1. You bid 2 diamonds – signaling partner that their next bid must be the heart suit – i.e.the next highest ranked suit up from diamonds.
2. If you bid 2 hearts, this signals partner that their next bid must be the spade suit.

(Traditionally in Standard American Bidding...before playing transfers in bridge,...when. responder is holding a 5-card **major** suit they would bid that suit at the bid two, three or four level... depending on their strength. But now the strong hand is shown to all and the defense has an unfair advantage!)

Opener Responder’s Transfer Openers Rebid

| | | |
|-----|----|----|
| 1NT | 2D | 2H |
| 1NT | 2H | 2S |
| 2NT | 3D | 3H |
| 2NT | 3H | 3S |

*Note:Opener can super accept the transfer by bidding three of the major suit if they have a maximum hand with a fit. Not my personal style. **The Only Disadvantage of Playing Jacoby**

Transfers is the loss of the ability to make a weak bid of 2♦ after a 1NT opening.