

Cardiff Bridge Tutors

How to use Red Suit Transfers

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♥ | Pass |
| 2♠ | | | |

Transfers!



What are we trying to achieve with a Transfer?

Transfers provide a means to find the best contract (in either major suit or No Trumps) after Partner makes a No Trump opening **and Responder holds five cards+ in a major.**

Transfers have a number of advantages over basic Acol:-

- The partnership gains a bid where Responder can define their hand more accurately.
- The stronger hand is concealed when playing in a suit contract.

We recommend that you use “Red suit transfers” only although some players transfer with the black suits too.

When do you use Transfers?

You can use Transfers after the first NT bid between your partnership.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | Transfer OK | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 2NT | Pass | Transfer OK | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|--------------------|
| 1♥ | 1NT | Pass | Transfer OK |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------------------|------|-------|
| 1♥ | Pass | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | Transfer OK | | |

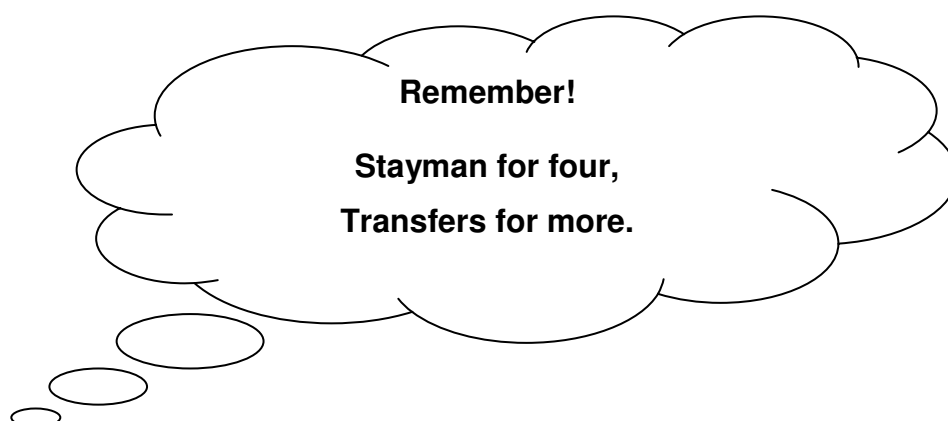
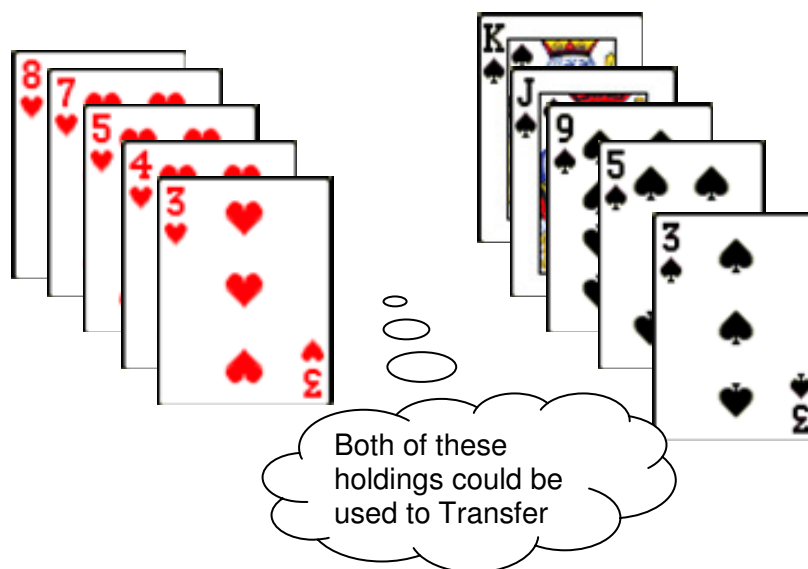
However, as with all conventions, if there is interference then **Systems are Off** and you bid naturally.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|--|-------|
| 1NT | 2♣ | Systems off Don't use Transfers. Bid naturally. | |

Stayman is used after a NT opening too, how do they fit together?

Both Stayman and Red Suit Transfers are used to try to find a fit in a major suit.

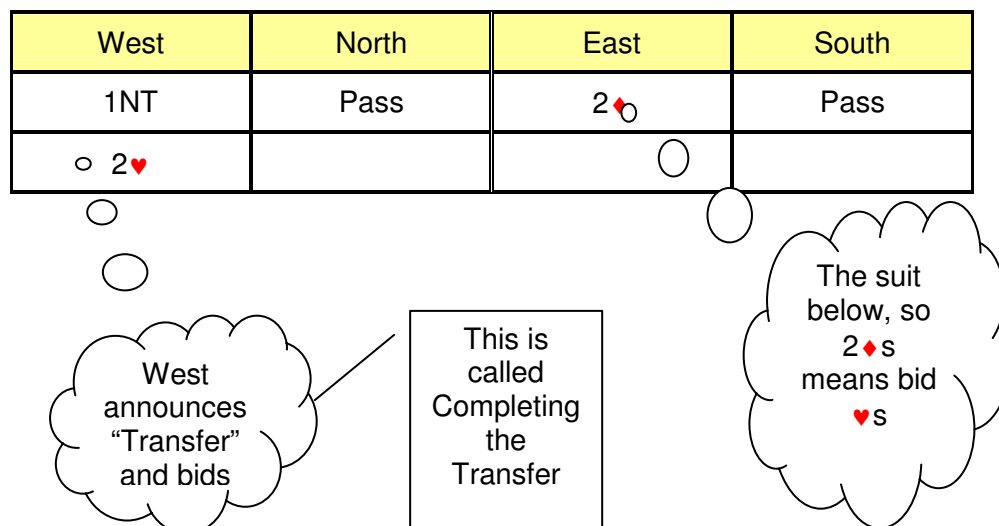
- You use Stayman with 11+ points and a minimum of four card major.
- You don't need any points at all to use Red Suit Transfers although you may have as many as you like; you do need a five card major suit though!



How do they work?

Using Red suit Transfers you bid the suit below the one that you have a five card holding in and your Partner will then bid the suit above.

Here is an example:-



If East had 0-10 points they would then pass and you have used Transfers to make a Weakness Takeout but now the strong hand is hidden!

What if I have points or more than five cards in a major?

You still use Transfers and you will have a chance to bid on after your Partner has completed the Transfer.

Opener has completed the Transfer what happens next?

We will concentrate on a 1NT opening bid and the subsequent auction as this bid happens more frequently than the 2NT opening. The method is the same for 2NT but obviously the point ranges are different and you might even have the opportunity to bid a slam!

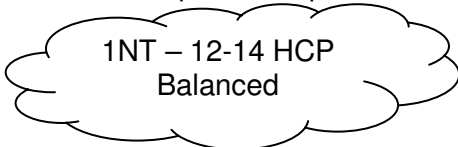
Opening bid was 1NT.

You may recall that a 1NT opening is a limit bid; it defines the hand well (12-14 HCP and balanced). Opener then does not rebid unless asked by their Partner.

Transfers (and Stayman) are examples of "asking" Partner to bid again.


Opener will complete the Transfer and Responder is now in control of the auction and so what type of hand might Responder have?

Let's start by looking at the information the partnership has exchanged.



1NT – 12-14 HCP
Balanced

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | | | |



Has 5+ ♥s
Unknown
points

In this example:

East knows that West has 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

As the hand is balanced East must have a minimum of 2♥s and may have more.

West knows that East has five or more ♥s but they don't know how many points East has.

The next step is for East to tell West their point range, ask whether they are better off playing in ♥s or a NT contract or to bid game.

Communicating the point range.

Responder has less than 10 points.

If East has five ♥s they will pass and so makes the equivalent of an Acol weakness takeout.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|-------------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | Pass | |
| <i>East has less than 11 points – weakness takeout</i> | | | |

Responder has 10-11 points and more than 5♥s.

| West | North | East | South |
|---|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3♥ | |
| <i>East has 10-11 HCP and 6♥s West bids game if they have an outside doubleton.</i> | | | |

Responder has 11-12 points.

Opener has only 2♥s.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|------------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | |
| <i>East has 11-12 points. They ask Opener should we play in ♥s or a NT contract.</i> | | | |

The ball is back in opener's court. What should they do?

Remember we are always looking for an eight card fit as a Trump contract and the next exchange of information determines if this is the case.

West must have a minimum of 2♥s but may have more.

If West had only 2♥s it will be better to play in a NT contract and so with 12 points they will pass and the contract will be 2NT.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| <i>West has 12 points and two ♥s. With 23-24 HCP it is better to play in 2NT</i> | | | |

If West had only 2♥s it will be better to play in a NT contract and so with 14 points they will raise the contract to 3NT.

| West | North | East | South |
|---|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | | | |
| <i>West has 14 points and two ♥s. With 25 -26 HCP it is better to play in 3NT</i> | | | |

What if West has 13 points?

Well, the question is **“Do you feel lucky?”** the choice is yours, stay at 2NT or gamble for 3NT!!

Responder has 11-12 points.

Opener has more than 2♥s.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|------------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | |
| <i>East has 11-12 points. They ask Opener should we play in ♥s or a NT contract.</i> | | | |

Opener has more than 2♥s and so elects to play in the suit contract but should it be game? The answer again depends on whether West has the minimum (12) or the maximum (14) points.

West has minimum points.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3♥ | | | |
| <i>West has 12 points and three+ ♥s. Not enough for game but we are better off in a suit contract.</i> | | | |

West has maximum points.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 4♥ | | | |
| <i>West has 14 points and three+ ♥s. Bid game in the suit contract</i> | | | |

With 13 points - **“Do you feel lucky?”**

Responder has 13+ points and five ♥s.

East asks West to choose between a suit and a NT contract.

| West | North | East | South |
|---|-------|------------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3NT | |
| <i>East has less than 11-12points. They ask Opener should we play in ♥s or a NT contract.</i> | | | |

Opener has 2♥s.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| <i>No eight card fit we will play in 3NT</i> | | | |

Opener has more than 2♥s.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 4♥ | | | |
| <i>With an eight card fit we will play in 4♥</i> | | | |

Responder has 13+ points and six ♥s.

| West | North | East | South |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| <i>With an eight card fit we will play in 4♥</i> | | | |

Summary

| Bid meaning after a 1NT open and a transfer | |
|--|--|
| Pass | Insufficient Points <i>Same as weakness twos</i> |
| 2NT | 11 or 12 points – partner please bid – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pass with minimum and 2 card support ▪ 3 ♥ or ♠ with a minimum and 3+ card support ▪ bid 4 ♥ or ♠ with a maximum and 3+ card support ▪ Bid 3NT with a maximum and 2 card support |
| 3NT | 13 or more. Partner please choose between game in our suit or NT (Decided upon length of trump suit held by opener) |
| 3 ♥ or ♠ | 10-11 points but a 6 card suit. Please bid game if you can add shortage points |
| 4 ♥ or ♠ | I have enough points for game in this suit with a 6 card suit. Please pass. |
| A new suit eg 3 ♦ | I also have four cards in this suit and my hand is unbalanced otherwise I would have bid 2 or 3NT. Please bid at the 3 level of the suit and I will decide if game is on. |
| A new suit eg 3 ♦ | With a strong hand held by responder they can show the above response but bid on possibly in the second suit |

| Bid meaning after a 2NT open and a transfer | |
|--|--|
| 3 ♦ | I have 5 or more Hearts please bid 3 ♥ |
| 3 ♥ | I have 5 or more Spades please bid 3 ♠ |
| 3NT | I have a balanced hand with 3+ points please pass |
| 3 ♠ | I have 10 or more points and an unbalanced hand, bid 3NT minimum or bid your lowest 4 card suit – we are exploring a slam! |