

# Stayman and Jacoby Transfer Bids

## THE STAYMAN CONVENTION

**Definition:** - The Artificial bid of “2C” over partner's opening bid of 1NT (or alternatively “3C” over partner’s opening of 2NT) asks the NT opener for a 4-card major suit.

### Notes:

1. The Stayman Convention is used only with a 4-Card Major suit looking for a 4-Card Major suit fit. Jacoby Transfer bids are used with a 5-Card suit looking for a 3-Card fit.
2. If the Combined hands have 26-28 HCP's the hand plays better in 4 of the Major. If the Combined hands have 29-32 HCP's the hand plays better in 3NT not-with-standing the potential 8-Card Major suit fit.
3. The artificial bids of “2C” over a 1NT opening bid, or of “3C” over a 2NT opening bid, both signifying the Stayman Convention, do not need to be alerted despite the artificial nature of the call. This is due to the fact that the Convention is almost universally accepted as the norm.
4. The opening bidder responds “2D” over “2C” or “3D” over “3C” to signify “NO 4-CARD MAJOR” or alternatively 2H or 2S (3H or 3S), up the ladder, to signify a 4-Card Heart or Spade holding.

<u>OPENER</u>	<u>RESPONDER</u>	<u>MEANING OF RESPONDER’S LAST BID</u>
1NT “2D”	“2C” 2H/2S	A sign-off promising a 5-card suit
1NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” 2NT	An invitational bid showing 9-10 HCP’s with a 4-card alternative Major holding. Partner can correct to the other Major if appropriate
1NT 2H/2S	“2C” 3H/3S	An invitational bid showing support for partner’s 4-card Major. Invites opener to game with a maximum holding of 16-17 HCP’s
1NT 2H/2S	“2C” 4H/4S	A sign-off acceptance of partner’s Major suit with no interest in Slam
1NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” 3NT	A sign-off unable to find a 4-4 fit in the desired Major suit Partner can correct to four of the alternate Major suit if appropriate
1NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” 3C/3D	A sign-off showing a 5- or 6-card Minor suit with no game interest and no Major suit interest
1NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” “4C”	The Gerber Convention asking for Aces
1NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” 4NT	A natural quantitative bid requiring opener to pass with a minimum of 15 HCP’s and to proceed to 6NT with a maximum of 16-17 HCP’s

## JACOBY TRANSFER BIDS

There are four (4) circumstances that exist wherein it is advantageous to playing Jacoby transfer bids. They are as follows:

- (1) Transfer bids are used **to insure** the circumstance such **that the player with the strong hand**; i.e., the opening NT bidder, **will be the declarer and**, thus, the player whose hand remains concealed to the opponents. This has an added benefit such that **the opponent's opening lead will come towards any tenace, not through existing ones**
- (2) 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

INT	"2D"
2H	3D
3NT	Pass

(B) KQXXX AQXXX XX X

With 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 Majors since the opening NT bidder can have no fewer than one doubleton.

INT	"2H"
2S	4H
Pass or 4S	

- (3) Transfers also solve the problems created by many **hands with invitational strength and five-card or six-card Major suit holdings**. Examples:

(A) AQX QXXXXX XX XX     Playing transfers, responder would bid "2D" and then raise opener's forced 2H to 3H, inviting opener to continue to 4H with a maximum holding of 16-17 HCP's else to pass with a minimum of 15 HCP's.

1NT	"2D"	
2H	3H	
4H or Pass		

(B) KQJXX XXX XX KXX     Playing transfers, responder can bid "2H", and then invite to game in either NT or spades by re-bidding 2NT over partner's forced response of 2S

1NT	"2H"
2S	2NT
3S, 4S, 3NT, Pass	

- (4) With a five-card Major suit holding and, game-going values, Responder can utilize a combination of transfer bidding coupled with a NT "CHECK BACK" to confirm whether the original NT bidder had two or three cards in the forced Major suit of Responder's choice.

KXX AQXXX KX XXX	1NT	"2D"
	2H	3NT
	???	

- (5) With a 6-card Minor suit holding, and 0-8 HCP's one can consider transferring to 3C or 3D by bidding "2S" or "3C" respectively. With game values, however, 3-NT is likely to be the winning bid, rather than seeking a 5C or a 5D contract, since most hands that make 5C or 5D also make 4-NT, a far better match-point score.

XX XXX KQXXXX XX	1NT	"3C"
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