

Fifth Chair



Jacoby Transfers

By Marcia West

General: The use of the Jacoby Transfer bid allows the strong hand, the NoTrump opening bidder, to become the declarer in a major suit contract, and the weak hand will become the dummy. It is much more difficult to defend against, when defenders do not see all the good cards in the dummy.

Playing Jacoby Transfers the declarer will usually gain one extra trick right at the beginning because the opening lead is coming up to the strong hand.

AQxx

KJx

KQxx

Qxx

If you were holding these cards in your hand, you would like the player on your left to be leading up to your hand, rather through all your tenaces.

REQUIREMENTS TO USE THE JACOBY TRANSFER:

You hold at least a 5 card (or longer) major. There are no other requirements.

NOTE !!! If you have only a 5 card major, YOU MAY NEVER, EVER, EVER!! rebid the suit once you have made a transfer. YOU HAVE ALREADY TOLD PARTNER THAT YOU HAVE 5 of that suit by using the Jacoby Transfer.

A. HOLDING A 5 CARD MAJOR:

1. Holding a weak hand: Partner has opened 1 NT.

You hold :

Axxxx

x

xxxx

xxx

In the past, with this holding across from an opening notrump, you would have bid 2S which is a drop dead bid. It would show a 0-7 HCP points and requests that partner pass.

Playing Jacoby Transfers, we would bid 2H, the transfer bid to the next higher suit, and partner would now bid 2S. You would pass and become the dummy.

2. Holding an intermediate hand: Partner has opened 1 NT.

You hold :

Ax

Kxxxx

xx

Jxxx

You transfer, that is, you bid 2D and partner will now bid 2H. Now you show the invitational hand that you have, by bidding 2 NT. If partner has a minimum NoTrump count, she will pass 2 N.T. with less than 3H, or with a minimum count and 3 card support, she will bid 3H.

If she is at the maximum of her N.T. Range, she will bid 3 NT. or with a maximum and a three card fit with your hearts, she will now bid 4H.

3. Holding a game going hand: Partner opens with 1 NT.

You hold:

AQxxx

xx

KJx

xxx

You bid 2H. PARTNER MUST NOW BID 2S. Your rebid becomes 3 NT, which

since you transferred, shows 5 spades and 10 or more count.

Remember NEVER rebid a 5 card suit. You have already told partner that you have 5 of these Spades. It is now up to the 1 NT opening bidder to correct to 4 S if she has 3 Spades and pass 3 NT. if she only has 2 Spades.

4. Holding a game going hand, with another 5 card suit:

Partner opens with 1 NT.

You hold:

AQxxx

xx

KJxxx

x

You bid 2H. PARTNER MUST NOW BID 2S. Your rebid here becomes 3D, showing the other suit. This bid is forcing on the opening NT bidder.

Since you made 2 bids you have shown that you have described your hand, and allowed partner to place the contract. She can bid 3NT, with shortness in spades, or bid 4S with 3 or 4 of them, or 5D with shortness in spades, and a good fit in diamonds.

B. HOLDING A 6 CARD MAJOR SUIT:

1. Holding a weak hand: Partner has opened 1 NT.

You hold:

xxxxxx

xx

x

xxxx

With this holding, you transfer and then pass.

2. Holding an intermediate hand: Partner has opened 1 NT.

You hold:

QJxxxx

Kx

xxx

xx

With this holding, you transfer, and then bid 3S, which promises 6 spades, and is an invitational bid. It is not forcing.

3. Holding a game going hand: Partner opens with 1 NT.

You hold:

KJ9542

3

KQxx

xx

Note: this hand counts to 11, with the 2 extra spades. You will now use the TEXAS TRANSFER (which belongs to the Jacoby Transfer family). You have to insist on getting to game and remember that you no longer care what partner has in Spades, as you know she has to have at least 2 of them to have opened with 1 N.T. You transfer at the 4 level by bidding 4H. Partner will now bid 4S. and you will now pass.

4. With a Slam invitational hand: Partner opens with 1NT.

You hold:

KQ9542

3

KQxx

Ax

With this hand, you use the Jacoby Transfer, by bidding 2H, then partner bids 2S, now you jump to game in Spades. This tells partner, I have a better hand than I would have, since I used Jacoby Transfer, and not Texas Transfer. Texas Transfers are for a game going hand, whereas using Jacoby Transfer, and then bidding game, I have more. It's up to the NT opening bidding to decide when to search for slam.

5. With a Definite Slam hand: Partner opens with 1NT.

You hold:

AKQ954

3

Kxx

Ax

With this hand, you transfer, then can bid 4C, the Gerber asking bid, so that if partner has both Aces, you can bid 7S. If partner shows only one ace, 6 Spades is still a good bid. Granted, it could go down, but it's not likely. Partner has 16 hcp. Outstanding points are:

J of spades

AKQJ of hearts

AQJ of diamonds

KQJ of clubs

You have 7 sure tricks in your hand, and partner says she has between 3 and 4 tricks, on the count of 3 hcp per trick.